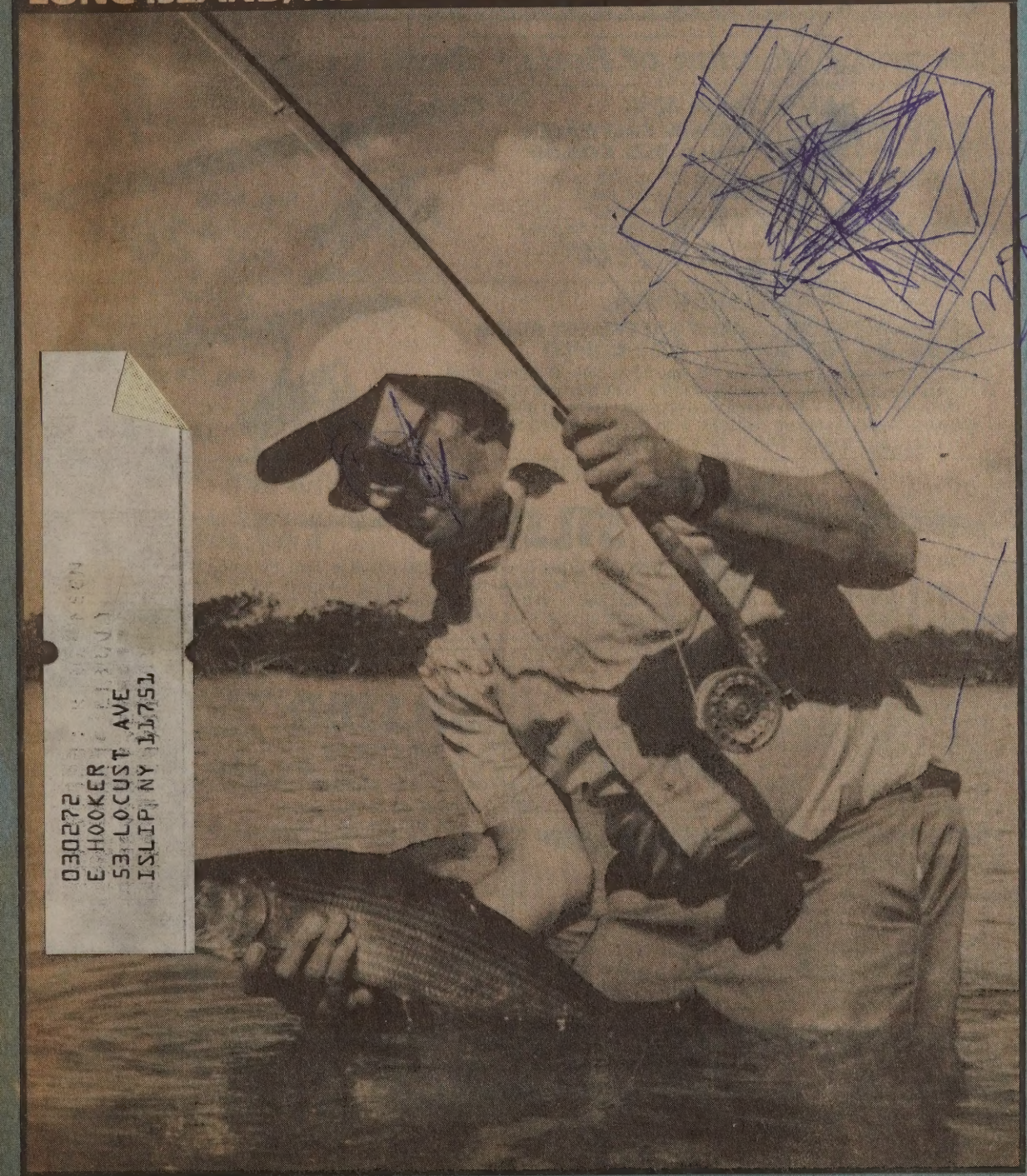
January 15th—21st, 1987, No. 3

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION



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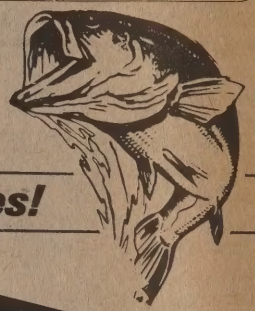

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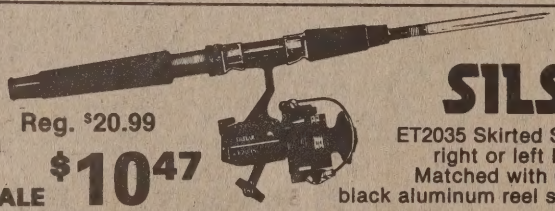

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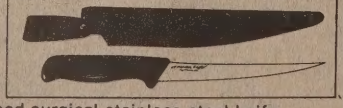

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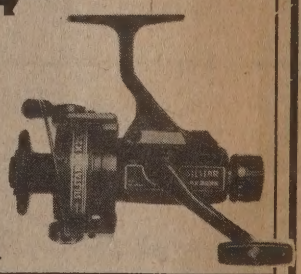

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THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 22, Number 3 January 15th, 1987

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Visions of crystalline flats, sunshine and tailing bonefish go a long way towards curing the winter blahs. If you are among those headed south to warmer climes, be sure to read the Fisherman Travel Log series. This week's segment features bonefishing in Belize. Joe Reynolds Photo.

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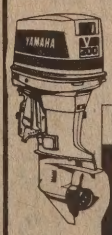

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CORRECTION ON AD PHOTO

In the August 28, 1986 issue of The Fisherman Magazine, an advertisement appeared for a fighting belt and harness manufactured by the Reliable Gaff Company of Hicksville, New York. However, the fighting harness being worn by Captain Bob Rochetta in the photo was designed and manufactured by Braid Products, Ltd., and not Reliable Gaff. The Fisherman staff regrets any confusion caused by the photo used in this ad.

BOATING SKILLS COURSE IN BABYLON

Flotilla 1-1 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has announced that once again they will offer their public education class Boating Skills and Seamanship course. This is the longest and most practical of the Auxiliary programs. This 13 week course takes the student from the language of boating, marine engines, rules of the road, piloting/charting, to a practical discussion of weather. Each lesson is 2 hours in duration. The "BSS" course will commence on Tuesday, January 20th and will be held at the Babylon High School, which is located on Carll Avenue. A nominal fee of $25 will be charged for the material which will be supplied to each student. At the conclusion of this course, all graduates will be given a certificate, which is supplied by the U.S. Coast Guard.

For more information, call Betty McEachen after 6PM at 669-2842 or write to Box 92, Babylon, NY 11702.

UPDATE FROM MCA STRIPED BASS COMMITTEE

The Montauk Captains Association (Striped Bass Committee) would like to report on the present status of our one bass/no sale position.

There was an open meeting with the DEC in mid-December in East Hampton sponsored by Judith Hope, East Hampton Town Supervisor.

The SBC outlined its plans at this meeting and we would like to inform you of our proposals. They are as follows:

1. A joint meeting (MCA and the Sportfishing Federation), in Albany, with the Long Island Caucus of the N.Y.S. Legislature.

2. The reiteration of our need for a spring fishery (so that we won't be duped in the fall as we were last year).

3. If we don't receive the fishery in the spring, we plan to continue to pressure our representatives for the restoration of the fishery.

We have collected approximately $1500 for the fund and have spent most of it on the ads prior to November. We want to thank all of the donors publically for their support. We feel the earlier ads greatly assisted us in making the 1½ million saltwater anglers aware of our position and solidifying their concern.

If we are not successful in January, we will call upon all of you to contact your state legislators and elicit their support.

BOATING COURSE IN ST. JAMES

Skippers and skippers to be—enroll now in the Smithtown Bays Power Squadron boating course. "Go down to the sea in safety and with skill." Enroll in our course in the Nesaquake Jr. High School, Edgewood Avenue, St. James, January 27th, Tuesday at 8PM. For further information call Richard Tepedino at 724-3699.

FREE BOATING COURSE

Plum Beach Power Squadron is offering a free boating course to the general public for present and future owners. The course includes: safety, small boat handling, navigation, maintenance. Class starts Tuesday, January 20th at 8PM. Come to Kingsborough Community College Science Building, Room S-162. Call Barry Babich (24 hours, 7 days), 718-667-5990; or Guy Cargulia, evenings, (718) 743-0779.

BASIC BOATING COURSE IN BROOKLYN

Now that most skippers and would-be skippers have cured their mid-winter mariner blues by checking out the new 1987 models at the New York Boat Show, Brooklyn Power Squadron wants to remind all those interested that it will again be offering its 12-week Public Boating Course.

This course has been offered by Brooklyn Power Squadron since 1918. It will cover basic piloting, coastal navigation, seamanship, rules of the road, boat handling under normal and adverse conditions, weather, sail, engine maintenance and a host of other practical topics and get hands-on experience in marlinspike and marine radio operation.

Registration and the first class will commence on Thursday, January 29th at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn Heights and on Tuesday February 3rd, at the Sheepshead Bay Yacht Club, 3076 Emmons Avenue, Sheepshead Bay. All classes run from 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

The instructors are all experienced and dedicated yachtsmen who donate their time, enabling us to offer the course free to the public. There is a slight charge for course materials developed by the U.S. Power Squadrons, such as notes, charts and course plotters.

For further information, those in-

terested should contact: Lt. Ursel Crutchfield at (212) 538-0382 or Lt. Judith DeMeglio at (718) 338-3083.

BOATING COURSE IN STONY BROOK

U.S.C.G Auxiliary Flotilla 19-04 will present a 10 week course in safe boating and seamanship, Monday nights at 8PM at the Stony Brook Yacht Club. The course is free, but there is a small charge for materials.

Registration is Monday, February 2nd. For information please call: 584-5449; 467-6098; 473-4143.

SAFE BOATING COURSE IN LINDENHURST

One of the principal objectives of the U.S. Power Squadrons is to promote safety in boating through education. Therefore, Captree Power Squadron is again offering, as a public service, its 10 week Boating Course this spring.

Registration and the first class will be held at the Lindenhurst Jr. High School, 350 So. Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst on Wednesday, February 4th at 7:30PM.

Boat ownership is not required to attend this course; only a sincere desire to improve your knowledge and skills in small boat operation and handling.

Classes include a wide range of subject areas such as: types of boats, marlinspike, equipment, regulations, boat handling, elementary seamanship, charts, aids to navigation, basic compass use, boat trailering and much more.

These classes are taught by experienced and knowledgeable members of Captree Power Squadron who volunteer their time and expertise to instruct all interested persons in the elements associated with safe boating.

TWO FREE BOATING COURSES

The Hempstead Bay Power Squadron will conduct a free course in boating, at the following high schools, starting at 8PM:

North Valley Stream High School, February 3rd, and Hewlett High School, March 4th.

The course is open to men and women. Being a boat owner is not required for anyone.

The free instruction giben in our public boating course is the best way to learn the basics of safe boating. Take it, whether you own a sail or powerboat, are thinking of buying one, or enjoy boating with friends.

The 10-week course will include sailboat and powerboat handling, rules of the road, docking, anchoring, plotting on charts, compass use, trailering, weather, engine trouble shooting and water ski safety.

The boating course is taught as a public service. Instructors are volunteer members who have completed advanced courses and have taught how to make their boating safer and more enjoyable.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS 1987 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Atlantis Anglers of Freeport will be holding 2 or 3 open meetings in the early months of 1987. We are inviting any fun loving fisherman down for the night to see and hear what we are all about. Call Jay Ebbets, (516) 766-4381 or Ralph Horowitz, (516) 889-0931 after 7PM, for more information.

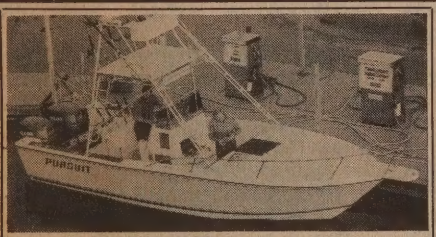
5TH ANNUAL SPORT FISHING FORUM AT SUNY/OLD WESTBURY

The New York Sport Fishing Federation announces that the 5th annual Sport Fishing Forum will be held March 14th at the campus of SUNY-Old Westbury on Rt. 107.

The Forum, which was formerly held at Farmingdale University and last year at the Speonk Campus of Suffolk Community College, will move to its new location in mid-Nassau County in the hopes of becoming THE winter attraction for Long Island saltwater fishing enthusiasts.

Always attracting top drawer national personalities, 1987 will be no exception. Already on board are Daryl Lowrance, president of Lowrance Electronics, Frank Johnson, founder of Mold Craft Lures, and Fred Schwab, one of Long Island's foremost surf casting authorities.

A new feature of this year's Forum



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will be a mammoth auction featuring fishing and hunting trips and a spectacular array of fishing gear from electronics to tackle.

Keep March 14th open. It's a Saturday and it will be the perfect way to start the 1987 fishing season off right.

TOURNAMENTS SHOULD FOSTER AND REWARD CONSERVATION

Tournament fishing is everywhere on the rise. Rapid population growth and economic development along the coast has brought a corresponding increase in the number of saltwater fishing tournaments. These tournaments target a wide variety of popular game fish, and many are using the lure of thousands of dollars in prize money to attract anglers.

The potential impact of this development on finite fish resources is cause for serious concern among conservation minded fishermen. Despite an encouraging trend toward release tournaments for sailfish, marlin, tarpon and a few other species, most tournaments still score on the basis of dead weight put on the dock, thereby encouraging participants to kill fish they might otherwise release. Moreover, they direct effort to the most popular species among anglers, many of which are already overexploited; e.g., king mackrel and red drum.

Tournaments have a responsibility to do their part to conserve the resources from which they benefit. The organizers of saltwater fishing tournaments must first make themselves aware of the condition of the stocks of fish they are exploiting and of game fish stocks in general and conduct their tournaments according to those realities.

The National Coalition for Marine Conservation strongly encourages every fishing tournament, regardless of locale or species targeted, to take several fundamental steps to promote conservation. We recommend that each tournament (if it has not done so already):

1. Revise tournament rules to reduce the needless killing of fish. The type of tournament will determine what kind of conservative fishing practices are most appropriate, but they run the gamut from adopting an all release format to some kind of modified release system. For example, threatened or non-food fish should be release alive. Awards should be given for released fish at least comparable to those awarded for boated fish. Minimum size limits may be imposed, with substantial penalties for undersize fish. And so on.

2. Use the tournament to assist in fisheries data collection and scientific research. Anglers should be encouraged to tag fish they release, with tagging kits made available to participants. State and/or federal fisheries agents should be provided access to tournament caught fish for sampling purposes, and final catch and effort statistics supplied to the appropriate management authorities.

3. Raise funds for conservation and research activities. A portion of the proceeds from tournaments should be donated to private conservation groups working to protect the fish and their habitat, and to state agencies in support of fishery studies, artificial reef construction, and improved access.

4. Finally, publicize all tournament related conservation activities. Press releases before and after the event should emphasize those things the tournament is doing (such as those recommended above) to conserve the fisheries and preserve the sport of fishing for the future.

PUBLIC BOATING COURSE IN SEAFORD

The Jones Beach Power Squadron will hold registration for their Fall Public Boating Course on Wednesday, January 28th at the Seaford Junior High School between the hours of 7 and 9 PM. The school is located on Washington Avenue (north of Sunrise Highway) in Seaford.

The first class will start on Wednesday, February 4th, 7:30 PM at the Seaford Jr. High School.

The course will consist of piloting, boat handling, marlinspike, basic navigation, equipment, regulations and safe operation, aids to navigation, weather and other related subjects.

All instruction is free, however, there is a nominal charge to cover costs including a 150 page student text/workbook, chart and other materials.

This course is the best way to learn safe boating from highly experienced instructors and is offered to adults as well as teenagers. In fact, bring the whole family.

BOATING COURSE OFFERED IN MANHATTAN

Due to an overwhelming response, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 5-7 is proud to offer another boating course, which is open to the general public. The course being taught this spring is a Power Boating course called Boating Skills and Seamanship. These lessons are presented as lectures and discussions which are supplemented with movies, slides, models and demonstrations wikth actual equipment. Students will have direct "hands-on" instruction and practice in the areas of marlinspike seamanship (nautical knots) and basic coastal piloting (navigation).

These classes, which are taught by highly experienced instructors are given on Thursday evenings from 7PM until 9PM beginning Thursday, January 29th. The entire course will consist of 12 lessons. Registration is the first evening of class at 6:30PM.

The classes are conveniently located at the Coast Guard Building, Marine Inspection Office which is south of Battery Park near the Ferry. There is free locked parking on the premises, if you are traveling by car.

Public transportation is also very convenient. By subway, take the #1 IRT to South Ferry Station, or the RR train to Whitehall Street Station. The #4 and #5 IRT also go to the Bowling Green Station.

All isntruction is taught free of charge. There is a nominal fee for course materials which include a textbook, workbook, navigation training chart and marlinspike practice line. For more information, call (212) 213-4664. You may also call the Foundation for Boating Safety-U.S. Hotline at 1-800-336-2628.

U.S. SEEKS INFO ON CARIBBEAN LONGLINING

A year and a half ago the NCMC alerted the U.S. Government and the conservation community to the fact that longlining in the Caribbean was rapidly getting out of hand. American swordfishermen, having exhausted stocks off our shores, moved into the Caribbean en masse. Foreign (non-Caribbean) longline fleets have also been hitting the area hard, going after tuna primarily, but reportedly landing tons of swordfish, marlin, sharks and other species, too.

While domestic fishermen are subject to regulation under the Atlantic swordfish and billfish plans, foreign fishermen (in this case, Taiwanese and South Korean) operating outside U.S. waters are beyond U.S. jurisdiction. U.S. concerns are being raised in international forums, such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, or ICCAT and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute.

The U.S. is also directing its efforts at identifying the participants and establishing the true extent of the fishing going on, which, as we have discovered, is not easy. Recently, the National Marine Fisheries Service, investigating longline activity in the Caribbean at the request of the NCMC, reported its preliminary findings. The Taiwanese, says NMFS, are the number one foreign (non-Caribbean) presence, with at least 30 longline vessels currently working the area. The boats are based on the islands of St. Maarten, Aruba and the Dominican Republic. So far, NMFS has been unable to obtain catch estimates from the vessels involved, and will make a formal request to the government of Taiwan to provide an accurate account of the catch from these vessels.

WORLD FISHING AND OUTDOOR EXPOSITION SET FOR 10TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR AT SUFFERN, NEW YORK

The tenth annual World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition opens February 25th at the Rockland Community College Field House in Suffern, New York. It will run through March 1st. The exposition has become a popular event for hunters and anglers because it is devoted strictly to displays and programs of interest to hunters and fishermen; there are no wrestling bears, alligators and similar carnival acts according to show director Paul Fuller.

It's become practically a national sportsmen's show, attracting enthusiasts from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the New England states as well as the State of New York, Fuller says. This will be the tenth anniversary year for the exposition.

The field house will be filled with fishing tackle displays, with all major manufacturers represented, plus hunting gear, guides, outfitters, lodges and travel exhibits, fishing boats and motors, taxidermists, custom rod makers, sportsmen's organizations and related displays.

In addition to all exhibits (and included in the price of admission) are Expo's daily seminars and clinics on hunting and fishing, featuring world famous outdoorsmen and local experts to share their knowledge with the public.

Doors are open from 1PM to 10PM Wednesday through Friday; from 9:30 AM to 8PM Saturday and from 10Am to 7PM on Sunday. Adult admission is $5, with children under 12 at $2. Parking is free. The World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition is easy to get to: just take Exit 14B (Airmont Road) off the N.Y. Thruway (I-87). It's the first exit west of the Garden State Parkway and is about 10 minute's drive from the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Dodge

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Boats For Anglers

BOSTON WHALER 18 OUTRAGE

by John Raguso

The Boston Whaler's reputation for unsinkable hulls started a few decades ago when the first 13 foot skiff was chain-sawed on camera and has been growing ever since. By now, we've all seen that famous video at the Whaler booth at the various boat shows. In case you've been on assignment in Siberia or are new to the boating world, the film depicts three boaters clinging precariously to each of an equal number of sawed off hull sections floating independently like corks, while the passengers do their best to scramble and keep their Top Siders dry.

The foundation for this "unsinkable" claim lies in this Massachusetts-based company's unique and proprietary foam core construction technique; but more about that later. Let's get into how this 18 Outrage center console handled the inhospitality of Long Island's Great South Bay.

Boat test day dawned under typical weather patterns for mid-November. Winds were 18 to 22 knots out of the north; air temp 47 degrees and sunny; the Bay a series of tight, whitecapped 2 to 3 foot rollers spaced about every 15 feet apart. Perfect conditions for a real look at what this tiniest Outrage could do.

I was greeted in the early PM by the Outboard Barn's sales manager, Steve Ellinger, who would help me take the 18 through its paces. As we walked down to the dock where the test boat was moored, Steve showed me a 13 foot Super Sport skiff that had an unscheduled meeting with the base of the Robert Moses bridge one night at 25 knots. Incredibly, the passengers weren't hurt and they were able to limp their Whaler, minus a good portion of its shattered bow, back to the dock in Babylon. This empirical testimony to the Boston Whaler's construction is an acid test few other boats could pass.

This Outrage was rigged with an OMC V-6 outboard, which is at the upper limit of the recommended power range. As we pulled out from the slip, I noticed the ostensibly low freeboard and lack of any optional canvas on this hull and remarked that we might take on a little spray. Steve just chuckled to himself and said, "We'll see."

Passing the Babylon Town dock, the Whaler popped right up on plane at an astonishing 2,500 RPMs. At 3,000, there was a noticeable surge forward and at 3,800 revs, this platform was humming along at a decent clip. Anything over 4,500 RPMs and it was time for a seat belt and a crash helmet! But this exhilarating ride was going with the wind and sea, in the relative lee of the north breeze that was whipping up the Bay into a washboard of whitecaps. How would she do beating into the elements a few miles into the expanse of Great South Bay? I was to find out firsthand, as Steve handed over the helm and invited me to give her my best abuse.

The first thing that became apparent when I turned her into the wind and punched the throttle was that the sharp entry of the Whaler's bow cut through the rough chop with relative ease, and there wasn't a drop of salt spray coming aboard whatsoever! When I brought this point up, Steve Ellinger remarked that this latest Outrage was designed to throw spray out and away from the cockpit, and that even on his ocean forays for bluefish and bonito, this was one soft, dry riding boat.

Another noteworthy characteristic of the ride was that the 18 Outrage's running attitude was remarkably flat while on plane. Even while making sharp turns, there was a mininum of bank—almost like turning on a dime and getting a nickel change. Some of the baymen who were working on the clam beds on the south flats give us a quizzical glance as the Whaler zipped around the periphery of the anchored Garveys, rolling left and then right, echoed by an occasional staccato burst of full throttle. We were executing tight 50 foot diameter circles at 3,5000 RPMs in the wind chop, and the prop didn't lose its bite even once. This boat can dance with the best of 'em!

Getting into the boat's specs and equipment list, she measures 18' 6" with a 7' 2" beam; weighs in at 1,250 lbs. without power; is rated up to 150 hp and carries a 63 gallon internal fuel tank. Either a conventional outboard transom or a full transom with OMC Sea Drive or Gil bracket is available.

On the dark side, this Whaler doesn't come with a lot of room for storing the day's catch and the standard twin pedestal helm seats are less than optimum for those boaters who travel in the fast lane, considering the Whaler's penchant for sharp turns and its low freeboard. Looking at this dilemma retroactively, these problems can be solved by procuring a few strategic options. First, the leaning post/rocket launcher installed in place of the twin seats will give the helmsman and navigator a more positive brace to lean on into turns and to negotiate an unfriendly sea. The rocket launcher half of this setup affords provisions to keep four rods at the ready and out from under your feet. A bonus is the area underneath the launcher's structure to store an 86 quart Igloo cooler—just the ticket to ice down 100 lbs. of blues, weaks or school tuna. Of course, a second 86 quart Igloo cooler mounted in front of the console will provide extra seating for your passengers, a separate ice chest to keep food and beverages cool, or as a backup fish box should you really knock 'em dead out there.

Freeboard towards the aft of the Whaler 18 is only 18½ feet, so you'll have to watch your step. The optional stern well rail will certainly add to the captain's peace of mind should there be small children aboard.

Dual cable teleflex steering is standard on the Whaler, as is level flotation. There is adequate space on the console for mounting a Loran C and a recording depthfinder, especially with the abundance of mini units now available. Options include many canvas possibilities, extra glass in the hull, teak covering boards, and more.

According to Public Relations manager, Paul Foster, the Outrage 18 hull design is a modified deep vee, with a transom deadrise angle of 15 degrees. In straight outboard configuration, she's set up for either a single 25 inch shaft motor or dual 20 inch powerplants. Mr. Foster went on to describe the Whaler's construction as being basically a chopped glass outer hull married to a chopped glass inner hull that is fused at the gun'l edges. Unlike conventional hulls, no internal stringers are used and woven roving is employed "only when necessary." The fiberglass sandwich is then injected with unicellular polyurethane foam, which expands under pressure to fill the air voids in-between the hull and liner, and bonds the entire structure together as an integral one piece unit. The foam not only insulates the hull from the ravages of pounding seas and extreme temperatures, it also provides the strength and flotation which allows Boston Whaler to offer a 10 year transferable hull warranty.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	18'6"
Beam	7'2"
Hull Weight	1250 pounds
Fuel Capacity	63 gallons
Maximum Horsepower	150

Manufactured by: Boston Whaler, 1149 Hingham St., Rockland, Massachusetts 02370, (617) 871-1400.

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Product Review

MICRONAR LCR

by Jim White

The miniaturized depth sounder is a small, lightweight unit that is rugged and versatile enough for any size boat. The sounder will determine water depth, bottom conditions and the location of intervening objects, such as fish, and will display this information in crisp, clear images on an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display).

Sweep speed can be adjusted to fast or slow, plus the entire display can be "frozen" to examine significant markings. The depth sounder has multiple depth ranges, starting from 0-10 feet and extending down to 0-100. The shift control allows expansion (in increments of 10 feet) of any slected depth range and also provides depth extension down to 190 feet. The unit contains an automatic clean echo function that reduces electrical interference from other sounders operating in the same general area.

The miniaturized depth sounder comes in two models: the M-410 and the M-430. The M-430 offers the same performance capability as the M-410, plus the additional features of an adjustable depth alarm and a water surface temperature gauge.

Power Gain Control: This knob is both an on/off switch and gain control. Clockwise rotation turns the power on and applies 12 volts to the unit.

The gain control adjusts the sensitivity of the unit also. Clockwise rotation increases the sensitivity; counterclockwise rotation decreases it.

Optimum setting for the gain control will vary, depending on such factors as water depth, local conditions and experience. To properly adjust the gain, set the range deep enough to allow room for display of a second bottom echo. Increase the gain setting until second bottom echo is visible. The range may now be reduced to display only the main bottom echo.

Depth: Depth is selected by pressing the depth key, then immediately pressing either the Shallow or Deep key. (Keep in mind if more than a few seconds elapse between pressing either the Depth key or the Shallow or Deep keys, the Depth key must be pressed again to change depth.)

The increase or decrease in depth is displayed above the word *Feet* located near the bottom right side of the LCD. Upon power up, the depth range is always 0-40 feet. Maximum depth range is 100 feet in this function.

Actual bottom depth is displayed in the lower left-hand corner of the LCD. An "E" will be displayed when the unit is not receiving a bottom echo signal.

Shift: The shift key allows expansion of a selected range for closer inspection of markings. To use this function first press Shift, then the Deep key. Each press of the Deep key increases the depth range by 10 feet, both at the upper and lower limits of the selected range. Example: With an original setting of 0-40, pressing the Shift and Deep keys will increase the range limits: 10-50, 20-60, 30-70 on up to 90-130.

Ninety feet is the uppermost limit for the top reading on the chart. Maximum depth that can be achieved using Shift is 190 feet.

Sweep: This control is automatically On upon power up. The setting can be fast or slow. Simple key presses alternate the setting.

Shallow: To decrease depth, first press the Depth key, then press Shallow. For rapid decrease, press and hold the shallow key. Depth can be decreased to 0-10 feet.

Deep: Depth is increased by first pressing the Depth key, then the Deep key. For rapid increase, press and hold the Deep key. Maximum depth is 100 feet. When using the Shift function, maximum depth is 190 feet.

Freeze: To "freeze" (stop) the sweep of the display, press the freeze key. To resume sweep, press the freeze key again.

Night Light: To light the LCD, press the Shallow and Deep keys simultaneously. To turn the light off, press these two keys again.

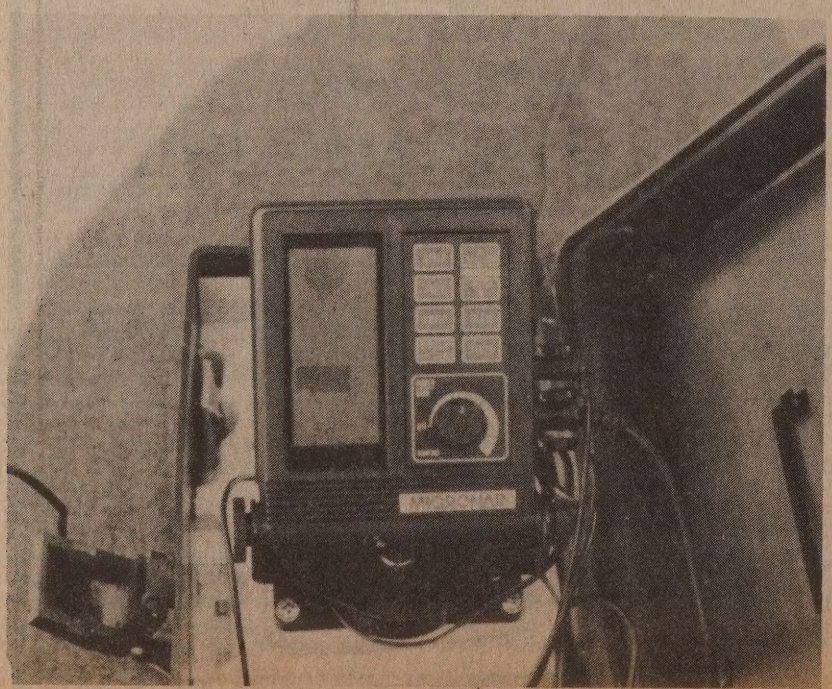
Contrast Control: Contrast is adjusted by turning the flush mounted control located at the back of the unit.

Depth/Temp: Digital display of water temperature is located in the lower left corner of the LCD in the same spot as the bottom depth readout. Pressing the Depth/Temp key alternates the readout between the two modes.

Alarm: The alarm can be set for depths as shallow as 3 feet or as deep as 30 feet. To turn the alarm function on, press the Alarm key. A small alarm On symbol will appear just to the right of the Depth/Temp readout. To set, press and hold the Alarm key. The alarm symbol will begin to flash. At the same time a continuous high pitched tone will sound and a new number will replace the Depth/Temp readout. To increase or decrease the alarm depth, release the Alarm key and immediately press either the Shallow or Deep key. Once the appropriate depth has been attained, release the key. Within a few seconds, the Depth/Temp readout will replace the alarm depth display. The alarm, however, will still be activated and will remain activated as long as the alarm symbol is present on-screen. To turn the alarm off, press the Alarm key.

All in all, I've found this small unit to be very useful especially in a small boat situation. It's a very high tech product and works up to its billing. Those of you who fish from a johnboat or canoe will find this product just what you've been looking for.

Manufactured by: Micronar, a division of Si-Tex, 2499 East Bay Drive, Suite 103A, Largo, FL 33541; (813) 536-6551.



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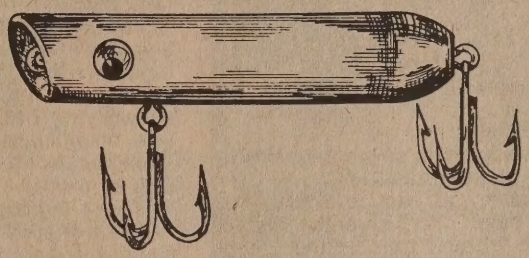

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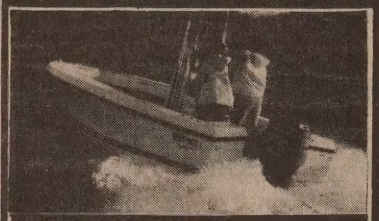
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The Tackle Doctor

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

Awhile back, maybe six months or a year, a subscriber wrote to you asking where he could purchase a Viking fishing rod. I can't remember your answer, but I have a Viking rod that was bought years ago. I don't even remember where I picked it up or what kind of money I paid. I don't think it was very expensive but it has given me a lot of good service and I'd really like to buy another just like it.

Do you know who makes the Viking rod and do you have any idea of where I can buy one? *John Buckley.*

Dear John,

The Viking rod is marketed by the St. Croix Company, P.O. Box 279, Park Falls, Wisconsin. It is a middle of the road rod, pricewise. I do not have any idea of where you can purchase one of these rods locally. Why not drop the company a line. If you can't buy one of their products from a local shop, and those I checked did not stock the Viking models, you may be able to buy one direct. You fail to mention the size of model Viking you currently own, so I can't tell you what price range it falls into. There are approximately 20 different lengths and style Vikings in the St. Croix line, ranging from 5 to 7 feet and in weight classes from medium light to extra heavy. If you can still read the model number on your present St. Croix Viking, your search for a replacement will be that much easier.

* * *

Dear Doc,

What's the advantage of using a heavy piece of stiff monofilament leader between the fishing line and lure. Won't toothy fish like blues chop through the heavy leader just as quickly as they will bite through regular monofilament line? I think the stiff leader will also kill the action of the lure and may even scare fish away. I've been fishing for blues a lot of years and never bothered with a leader, and I feel I catch a lot more fish because I don't use heavy line, snaps, swivels or any of the unnecessary hardware that I see a lot of other guys using.

What's your opinion regarding leaders and all the other stuff that would-be fishermen use when rigging up for fishing. *Arnold Cummings.*

Dear Arnold,

I'd be lying if I said I don't believe in using some type of shocker leader. Having been fortunate enough to fish a lot of different places along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coasts, I've had a chance to tangle with many saltwater critters. Some do have dentures that will make quick work of any size mono and must be sought with heavy tackle and wire leaders. Others may not have big teeth, but can sever a line through abrasion as it rubs against their sandpapery jaws. There is no way in this world you will land these fish without using some type of leader, be it mono, nylon covered wire or single strand wire leader material. You will lose a few, but land many. You may also receive fewer hits because of the visibility of the heavy mono or wire. But, if you are going to lose every fish that hits and with it a plug or lure that may have cost several dollars, what's the sense of being foolish.

As for the snaps, swivels and other "stuff," as you call it, I again must say there are situations that demand the use of some terminal gear. Maybe you don't have to use two or three pieces of hardware when fashioning a fish catching rig, but for many, you do need at least a ball bearing swivel to control line twist. Also, how would you construct a fish finder type bottom rig without a barrel swivel and a three way? Let's face it; those items you refer to as "stuff" are designed with a specific purpose in mind. They can be overdone, of course, but they are definitely a necessary part of any fisherman's arsenal.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I've been reading your column every week for the past two years and find it a wealth of helpful information. Now, I have a question that you might be able to help me answer. It is very minor, but I find it disturbing as h—. Why do fishermen in North Jersey continue to call flounder-fluke, tautog-blackfish and sea trout-weakfish? It is confusing as all get-out.

When I fish Delaware Bay or any of the shore towns in Cape May County people refer to the summer flounder as flounder. They also call the tautog a tog or tautog and when it comes to sea trout they are called trout or sea trout not weakfish.

What really gets my dander up is the term "fluke." Everyone knows that the flatfish inhabiting coastal waters is a summer flounder, not a fluke (which sounds like some throwback of nature). Let's get our act together and call a spade a spade and a flounder a flounder. Fish names, slurs

aside, are confusing enough without us adding to the mess. *Jim Slater.*

Dear Jim,

What's the fuss? You know what kind of fish you've just caught and what else really matters. So what if the guy or gal next to says it's a fluke or a blackfish. If you want to call it by the correct moniker, that's fine. But, first catch the fish and then worry about what to name it. As they say "You've got to hook 'em to cook 'em" and by any name tog and flounder are dandy when they've been treated to a thin coating of bread crumbs and allowed to do their little dance in a pan full of hot oil. At about that time no one really cares too much about the name; just making sure they get their share before the platter is cleaned.

As an aside, this has nothing whatsoever to do with tackle problems. But since you do bring up a point that has plagued fish biologists for centuries, I thought it might be nice to add just a little more fuel to the fire.

* * *

Dear Doc,

Now that the fishing season has come to an end (sad times) and I don't have much to do with my spare time, I've decided to do some tinkering with my equipment. For openers, I was given two lovely spinning rods by a friend. Both are built on the West Coast type action and are too "tippy" for my tastes. I'd really like to rework the rods so they feel more like the tackle I am used to.

Can I chop off the tip and cut the blanks back enough to make them stiffer? If so, how do I go about accomplishing this? I like the rods but those soft tips drive me nuts whenever I am fishing for bottom fish and must drive the hook home, lift the fish up off the structure and gain line in a hurry. *Jim Halpern.*

Dear Jim,

Just how much stiffer do you want the rods? You can very easily ruin the action by removing too much of the blank. I'd try cutting about four inches off the tip and then trying it to see how it feels. Attach a heavy sinker (10 to 16 ounces to the line after first stringing it through the guides and see how it feels. If it is still too "wimpy" cut another couple inches and repeat the process until you get exactly what you feel is right.

A word of caution. Once you cut the blank you cannot replace what you've taken away. Cut too much and you might as well toss the rod in the trash can. The fast tip action that originated among West Coast fishermen has gained popularity on the East Coast and in time, you'll be seeing more of these rods being marketed. You may eventually find that you also are a convert to the unorthodox feel of these rods, so don't be too hasty in deciding to cut the rods. Those we've used tamed fish quicker than the stiffer action rods.

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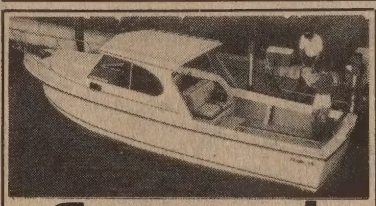

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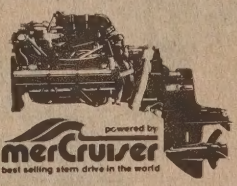

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Dock Lines

by Eric Burnley

Dear Dock,

I have been having problems when I try to anchor my boat over some productive spots in 40 to 60 feet of water. The boat seems to drag the anchor there, but when I use the same anchor inshore, it holds just fine. Do I need a bigger anchor when I fish in the ocean? *Sam Katz.*

Dear Sam,

Successful anchoring involves a good deal more than just dropping the hook over the side and tying off the line. You don't say what type of anchor you using or how much line you have but both of these factors are critical.

A Danforth anchor suitable for your size boat will work fine in most applications. You should attach a chain between the anchor and the line to help hold the shank down and let the flukes dig in. I use a 6 foot section of chain on the anchor for my 20 foot Bertram. Boating supply stores stock plastic coated chain that won't rust and is less abrasive to your boat's finish. Use a shackle to attach the chain to your anchor.

Your line or rope should have a scope (ratio of length of anchor line to depth of water) of 8:1 as a minimum and 10:1 as a safer bet. This means that you need 600 feet of line to safely anchor in 60 feet of water. You may get by with less if the sea is calm and the current is slack but we all know fish seldom bite under those conditions.

Finally, make sure your line is the proper diameter. For a 20 foot boat 3/8 inch nylon is a good choice. Smaller boats can get by with 1/4 inch line. Nylon is the best choice for an anchor rope because it stretches to take up some of the shock as the boat moves in a sea and it will not rot.

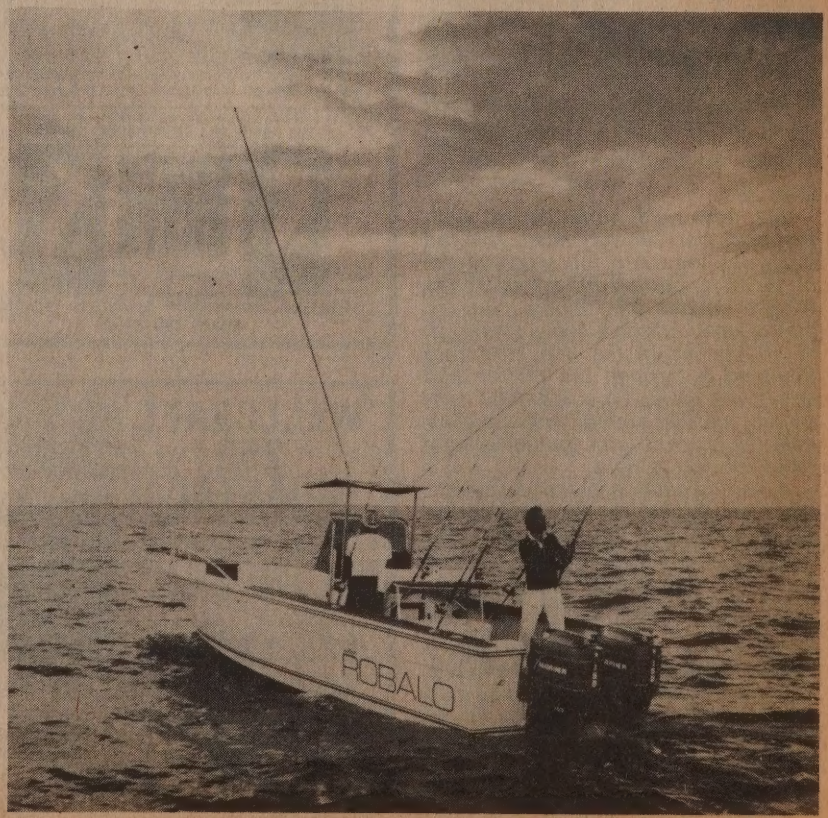
* * *

Dear Dock,

Would I be better off with two outboards of the same size or one big outboard and a small kicker on the new 23 to 25 foot boat I plan to buy over the winter. I hope to run the boat offshore whenever I can, but will also spend a good deal of time fishing the inshore grounds and the bays.
Tom Casper.

Dear Tom,

I have never been a fan of the small kicker outboard on an offshore boat.



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It may get you home, but by the time it does the wife will have cashed in your life insurance and taken off for Mexico with some guy who looks like Robert Redford, only younger.

That leaves you a choice between singles or twins. There is no question that twin outboards give you more security offshore, but they also cost more to buy and more to operate. The newer outboards are so reliable that you may be almost as secure with a single large motor. The choice is up to you. If you have the bucks, go with twins; if not, go with a single and sail with a friend.

* * *

Dear Dock,

I have two teenage sons and I would like to get them a boat to fish the inland bays and some of the tidal rivers in our area. A 14 foot aluminum boat seems to be a good choice. What do you think? *Jay Wittington.*

Dear Jay,

I have owned two 14 foot aluminum boats—a Starcraft and a Mirrocraft, and for the type of fishing you describe, they are very practical. There are many excellent boats of this type on the market including Fisher, Duranautic, Alaskan and Grumman.

One word of caution: don't overpower the boat. Teenage boys and even some supposedly grown up men will have a tendency to push a boat to the limit and sometimes this will cause problems. A 15 to 20 hp motor will move a 14 foot aluminum along at a respecable speed and will not cause additional graying of a parent's hair.

* * *

Dear Dock,

I want to mount a VHF and a Loran antenna on my boat. How far apart should they be and should one be higher than the other. *Bill Busby.*

Dear Bill,

According to the installation instructions for my Apelco Loran the antenna should be mounted from the highest accessible point on your boat and as far away as possible from other antennas. These are general instructions and each boat will require a different installation.

If you have a flybridge or tower that would be an ideal spot to mount your antennas. The VHF and Loran antennas could be mounted 4 or 5 feet apart, but don't get your Loran antenna that close to a radar or single sideband antenna. Both of those units produce a strong signal that could damage your Loran receiver.

I have my VHF and Loran antennas mounted on either side of my boat just forward of the windshield. The distance between them is 7 to 8 feet and the location is accessible but not in the way of my fishing activity. The Loran reception has been fine, but the VHF transmission suffers a bit because the antenna is too close to the water.

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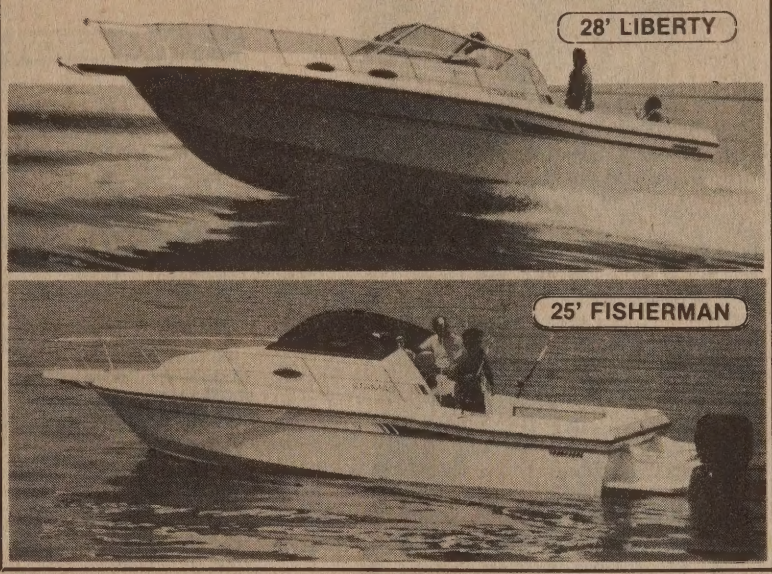

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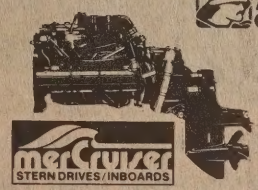

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Fisherman readers will learn how to read water, how to gear up and then how to use that tackle to catch trout from various sections of a stream. Spin fishermen will like the section on using UL tackle, especially the use of clear, plastic float and a fly. It's deadly. Our editors were impressed with the quality of the how to.
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Produced by Murray Brothers, one of the most respected names in big game fishing. Takes the viewer through a step by step rigging process for the first part then into some incredible action as seen from the flybridge of the Cookie Too, one of the best tuna boats on the east coast. You'll see 600 pounders crashing a squid bar along with the procedure for rigging same. Find out how to rig a mackerel bait and why a wire man should wear gloves. We're sure you'll play this one over and over during the winter. Highly recommended.
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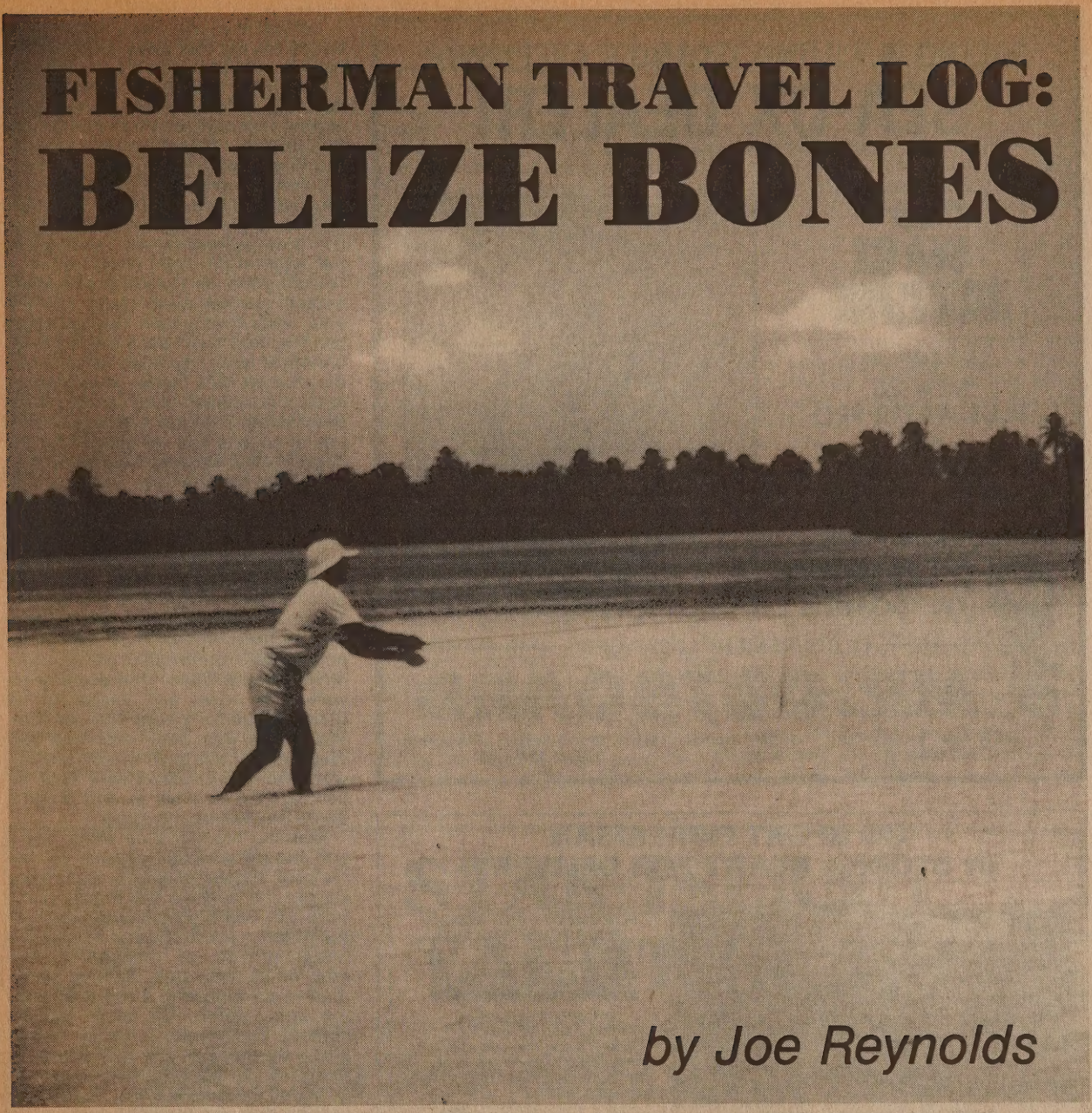

by Joe Reynolds

Bonefish can be dangerous to your health. A sane, normal existence is next to impossible after you are bitten by the bonefish bug. My initial exposure to the illness occurred in the Florida Keys, but that first morning on the flats south of Ambergris Caye in Belize sent me over the edge— beyond the point of no return, with no hope for a cure.

Earl Shelsby and I had arrived on Ambergris the previous afternoon by way of Miami and Belize City, leaving behind an ice-glazed runway at Baltimore-Washington International. On the following morning all the planning, the saving, the dreaming, became reality when our guide, Gil Gonzales, shut down the engine and began poling across what seemed to be an endless flat.

Ahead sky and water came together in a monochromatic blend of gray. Behind us the gold brilliance of a new sun reflected from the turquoise surface of the water inside the barrier reef. We were at least a mile from the coral dropoff and the distant roar of the surf was reduced to a murmur, while white spray hid the shades of purple and blue beyond. But the colorful canvas being unveiled in the east did not hold our attention. Our eyes were riveted ahead, to the gray west, searching for bonefish through the surface mirror.

Earl spotted the first. It was too close and flushed before he could cast. Then I allowed three others to get too close. Gil wasn't saying too much. Earl and I stared quietly ahead as he leaned into the wood pole, worn smooth from endless hours working the flats.

For some time, there was silence until Gil announced, "Bonefish ahead.' I didn't see a thing.

"How far?" I asked.

"Two hundred yards maybe."

"Two hundred yards. You gotta be kiddin'." By then I figured this guy has a bionic eye or thinks he has two idiots on board. He wasn't even wearing Polaroids. But there was something in the distance.

We moved closer and the "wind ripple" seemed to be moving toward us. Then we were close enough to see the tails—500 or more of them, rippling the surface as they wagged gently to and fro, reflecting the morning sun. Shelsby mumbled something about not believing his eyes. I made some incoherent statement. It took a moment to put body and mind back together for a cast, but somehow the flyline was airborne and a sloppy cast dropped way ahead of the lead fish.

(Continued on next page.)

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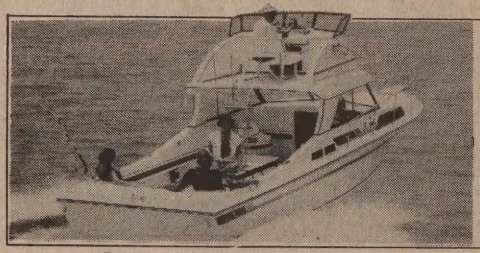

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I stripped in the slack, then twitched the fly. Six feet away a fish darted from the school and sucked in the imitation. When I set the hook that bonefish did a couple of quick figure eights, then bolted for the horizon. So did all of his friends. It sounded like the Fourth of July. But I applied too much hand pressure on the reel and the leader snapped. The white fly line floated limply on the water. I stood on the bow, staring at the now vacant flat, beyond the point of no return.

During the next two hours we intercepted several more large schools and many singles. Taking turns casting, Earl and I each landed three bonefish. Nothing huge; maybe 3 to 5 lbs., but we saw bigger ones. Then a strong northeast wind arrived from beyond the reef; its baggage was a line of squalls and we headed for the dock at Reef Resort. It rained for the remainder of the day, but we had nearly a week to go.

Reef Resort is operated by Ramon Nunez and his wife, Micky. The main house and surrounding thatched cottages are set in tall palms on a white coral beach overlooking the world's second longest barrier reef. A short walk north is the town of San Pedro, population around 1,000, the only city on Ambergris Caye. That evening we walked to town and joined Gil at Blake House for a cold Charger beer. The place was as I imagined Key West would have been when Hemingway lived there. Somehow I kept expecting him to walk in and order a drink: Daiquiri up, no sugar.

Morning brought blue skies, but a stiff breeze was still coming off the reef. Gil suggested we try for tarpon. He ran the boat up the beach, north from San Pedro, then headed back into a small creek that wound through a heavy growth of mangroves. We reached an open area, perhaps a hundred yards wide with a small cove on the right. Before Gil could tilt the engine, Earl spotted rolling tarpon along the edge of the mangroves in the cove. Our abrupt arrival apparently hadn't bothered them. They were coming right for the boat, just over a hundred feet away. We could hear their "breathing" sounds and see their backs as they rolled.

Shelsby cast when they were at about 60 feet. His plug dropped eight feet in front of the lead fish. We could see the plug swimming just under the surface; see the tarpon swim slowly up to the plug. The plug disappeared. As the fish turned, Shelsby struck hard, then again. The tarpon came out. Forty or fifty pounds of pure energy—silver body twisting, head shaking, the plug dangling from a gaping mouth but somehow holding.

The mangroves were close, but Earl really wasn't the one in control at this point. His tarpon headed right for the timber, leaping just at the edge, then doing a 180, coming back past the front of the boat, jumping again only 10 feet away. After that it was a tug of war for ten minutes before Gil was able to stick it with a gaff. He wanted

it for dinner.

That was one of the surprises of our trip. People of San Pedro live off the sea and we didn't find them unwilling to eat any kind of fish, including barracuda, bonefish and tarpon. In fact, barracuda was the main dish one evening and it was delicious. Sport fishermen in the States have elevated bonefish and tarpon to a regal status, but San Pedroanoes look at them as just another meal.

Earl's quick luck had made me ready for action. It was 15 minutes before the tarpon showed again, moving along the same path. This time the fly rod was ready; I stuck a small one but the hook came loose on the second jump. After that the tarpon would still come within casting range but we couldn't coax them into striking.

Around Ambergris the tarpon come and go, with June being the best month. As for bonefish, Gil said they were plentiful all year. Apparently they get very little fishing pressure. Gil and other San Pedro guides probably do more guiding for divers than fishermen. The barrier reef off the island attracts divers from all over the world. Gil is an expert, diving to depths of 200 feet or more for black coral, used by island craftsmen to make jewelry.

Most of the guides were born and raised on the island and know every ditch, hole and mangrove shoot. Boats aren't flashy. No fancy Florida bonefish skiffs here. Gil, like most of the guides, built his own boat. It's made of wood and is heavy, serving for commercial and guiding use.

Our days on Ambergris passed too quickly. The best was midweek; Thursday, I think. There was no wind and we headed up the beach about 10 miles to a spot where the reef is nearly on the beach. Gil dropped me off to wade the flat for bonefish while he and Earl went outside to jig the deep water for grouper. I took along a box of flies, some extra leader material and a light fly rod.

The bottom was hard and good for wading. Seeing bonefish would be a snap because the bottom was an off-white color without much grass. A shark hanging around a narrow channel in the reef reinforced my decision to stick with the shallow water close to shore. I was looking up the beach when I spotted the first bonefish: a single. Visibility was good, with the sun just behind my right shoulder. The palm lined white beach was on the left. A hundred yards ahead, the surf was crashing on the beach where the reef curved shoreward.

I cast when the fish was at 70 feet. The orange and white keel fly streamer dropped five or six feet ahead of the target. That bonefish darted right over and gobbled up the fly, felt the hook and took off for deeper parts without any preliminary antics. The first run was good for 70 yards or better. When the bonefish was exhausted and up close, I slid my hand down the leader and twisted the fly free, almost glad that Gil asn't around to add him to the dinner menu.

Two hours pass quickly when you're on a bonefish flat. Wading slowly, it took that long to reach the reef where it came next to the beach. Along the way I landed four bonefish, lost two and scared more than I wish to recount.

Then Gil picked me up and we spent the remainder of the day casting tube lures around the reef for barracuda. What sport. They struck on nearly every cast—slashing, water spraying strikes, followed by leap after leap as they raced in every direction, making incredible starts, stops and turns. Ten to 20 pound fish that wouldn't quit. Yeah, Thursday was the best day.

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WHAT'S NEW IN FISHING BOATS: 1987

Part Three — *by John Raguso*

This week's segment will wrap up our review of new fishing boats in the 20 to 28 foot size range. Let's get right to it.

Stamas: The boatbuilders at Stamas Yachts have been practicing their trade for many years, but it's only lately that this manufacturer is getting the widespread industry respect that Stamas owners have always given their boats in the past. According to New Products Manager Dick Curry, this Tarpon Springs, Florida company is introducing three new models for 1987 and they are the 288 Liberty cuddy, the 255 wide-beam Family Fisherman cuddy and the 255 Tarpon expanded beam center console. This trio of craft strays from the traditional Stamas mold, in that they incorporate a deep vee 18 degree deadrise angle at the transom, in place of the typical modified vee taper found on some of the older boats.

The 288 Liberty comes equipped with dual I/O power, sleeps four adults comfortably, has a dinette and stand-up head, weighs 9,500 lbs. counting both motors, and has a 196 gal. fuel tank for decent range. The 255 Family Fisherman is based on the recently popular 8' 6" beam, measures 25' 4" in length with a standard 158 gal. fuel cell, features a full cuddy cabin with stand-up head, galley, dinette table and vee berth, plus basic foam flotation. Six fish boxes/baitwells of various proportions are included in this layout for the family that likes to cruise and catch fish for dinner. Power options include outboard bracket, Sea Drive and I/O. The 255 Tarpon is more of a dedicated fishing boat since its center console allows full 360 degree access around the deck. Designed on the ubiquitous 8½ foot beam, it, too, has the six fish boxes built in as standard issue. Also included is a 158 gal. tank, foam flotation and the aforementioned 18 degree vee hull. All Stamas boats come with a five year hull warranty.

Oceanic: This Hialeah, Florida builder is quietly making a name for itself in coastal areas for producing tough, affordable and seaworthy ocean sportfishing boats. For 1987, Manny Hernandez and the gang at Oceanic are staying with their two basic hulls, a 21'x8', 20 degree deep vee and a 25' 9" x 8', 20 degree deep vee. Both boats feature 100 percent hand land fiberglass construction, with the smaller having a seven-layer foundation (4x1.5 oz. mat and 3x24 oz. woven roving) and its big brother sporting an 11-layer build-up (6x1.5 oz. mat and 5x24 oz. woven roving).

Each hull comes in either center console or full cuddy cabin layout and available power formats include either outboard, outboard bracket, inboard/outboard, or straight inboard. According to Manny Hernandez, Jr., the 21 foot series boat is equipped with level flotation and the larger 26 foot models offer basic flotation as an option. Stay tuned for a performance review coming up in a few weeks in the "Boats for Anglers" column published in The Fisherman for the 21 foot Oceanic Center Console. I was able to put this craft though the paces on a fairly snotty late October afternoon and the results are surely to be informative for anyone in the market for a mid-sized fishing machine in this size range.

Sea Ox: A call down to Sales Manager Curt Strassel confirmed that

Sea Ox 230C

the North American Fiberglass crew will stand pat with their popular line-up of 18, 23 and 26 foot fishing boats for 1987. However, he did hint that there is a new hull on the horizon. Slated for a late summer unveiling, their 24'x8' 6" walkaround cuddy is currently on the drawing boards. Unlike the 14 degree deadrise proportions of their 20 and 23 foot walkarounds, this newest Ox will feature an 18 degree transom deadrise angle and is projected to weigh-in at approximately 3,800 lbs. Also included will be a 140 gal. fuel tank, an enclosed head, freshwater sink and alcohol stove in the cabin, collapsible dinette table and much more still to be finalized.

Also of interest, Mr. Strassel went on to say that all Sea Ox boats from the tiniest to the mightiest, are now constructed with a new Glidden premium quality NPG gel coat, to ensure a high luster and gloss for years to come.

Wellcraft: This Sarasota, Florida company offers a complete line of fishing hulls ranging from 18 on up to 28 feet in both center console, walkaround cuddy and full cuddy cabin layouts. An interesting addition for 1987 is what Marketing V.P. Paul Perry calls the "northern fisherman" model, specifically a 20 foot dual console format called the 20 Sportfish. This design allows those anglers who brave the elements in the colder climates a chance to get in out of the weather, when combined with the canvas options. It comes in Sea Drive only, and has a 60 gal. fuel tank, checking in at about 2,600 lbs. with power. Also on the drawing boards for this season is a totally new 21 foot Coastal hull, slated to be introduced in the early summertime.

Sportcraft: There are three new product offerings from this Perry, Florida company for this model year. The 252 Fisherman center console leads the group with a 25' 2" length built over the ubiquitous 8' 6" beam that is becoming more commonplace nowadays. This hull features a 162 gal. fuel capacity, hydraulic steering and stainless hardware as standards. She checks in at 4,490 lbs. dry, and according to sales exec Debbie Shows, available power options include single or dual 25" shaft outboards, bracket mounted outboards, I/O and Straight Inboard. Be on the lookout for my review of this hull in The Fisherman's BFA column, sometime in the late spring.

Also new for this '87 is the 202 center console and the 250 Offshore cuddy. Both boats are constructed on the more conventional 8' beam, and the 202 comes with a 62 gal. tank, while the 250 sports a 120 gal. fuel cell.

Well, that's the scoop for 1987. We didn't get the chance to cover every manufacturer, but we looked at some of the most popular boats around. Stay tuned for our evaluation of what's new in outboard power coming your way in the weeks ahead.

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THE TERMINAL END:

BLUEFISH RIGS

by Russ Wilson

April, bluefish are found throughout the Carolinas, off Virginia and as far north as Delaware. By mid-May, bluefish can be found most anywhere from New Jersey's offshore grounds north to New England although few fishermen actually fish specifically for them in New England waters until early or mid June.

These early arrivals are usually "racers" or fish that are long and lean with little flesh covering their bones. Due to the killing nature of these fish it doesn't take long for them to fill out. By midsummer fishermen are hauling fat, feisty slammer blues of up to 15 pounds and larger from the offshore depths.

As a general rule, bluefish will travel in large schools comprised of fish that all measure about the same length and weigh accordingly. This, because of their cannibalistic nature, ensures survival of the species. Very often bigger blues will home in on a school of smaller "snappers" and eat every one in sight. On more than one occasion we've had giant slammers attack a 5 or 6 lb. blue that was attached to our line, so intent are they on killing whatever they can catch.

The bluefish is one of the most important inshore game fish found along the North Atlantic. In fact, many charter and party boat captains claim if it were not for the bluefish they would be out of business, so important is this coastal traveler to their business survival.

The bluefish, **Pomatomus saltatrix)** is a widely spread game fish, living in all warm waters of the world. From birth it is a highly skilled predator living entirely on other fish.

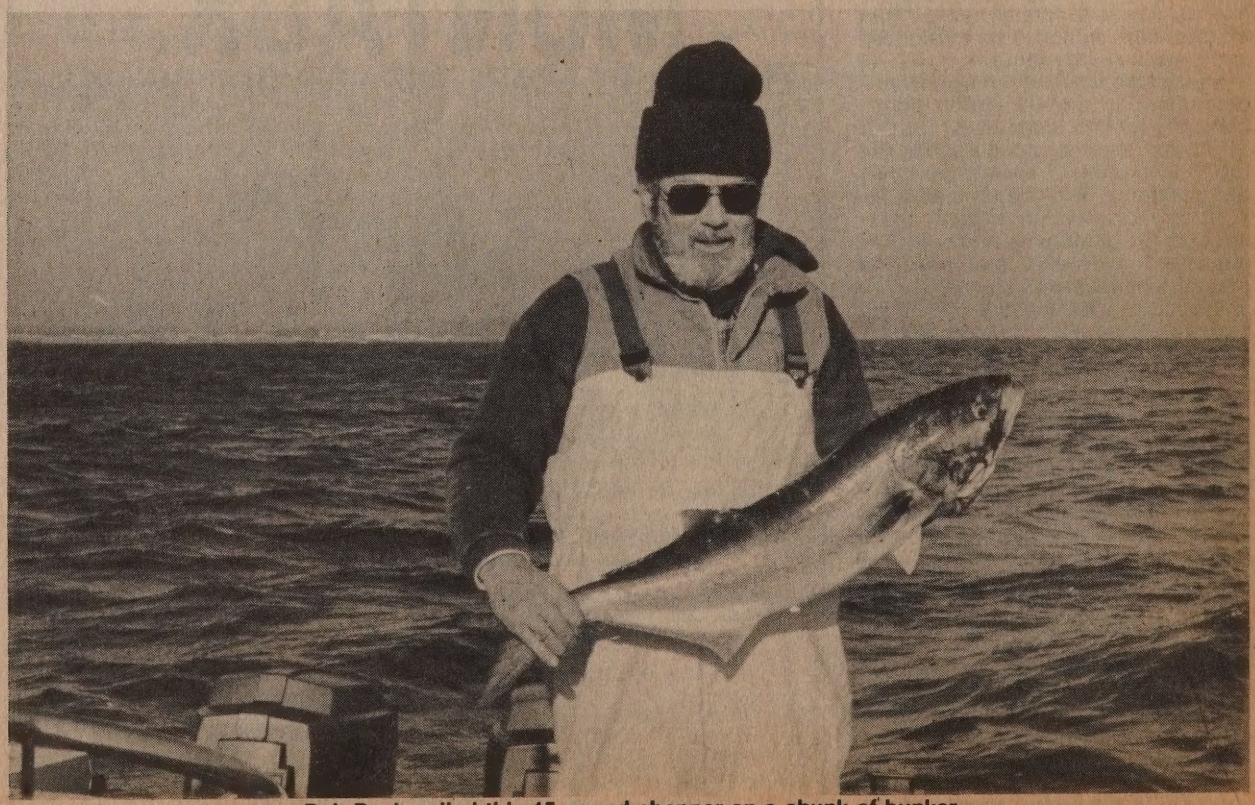
Found from the Tropics to Nova Scotia, the bluefish is without a doubt one of the most highly sought of all saltwater game fish. Blues of all sizes have probably gotten more anglers hooked on saltwater fishing than any other fish.

A nomadic fish, the blue will migrate south to north in the spring and north to south in the late fall. Generally, bluefish will be caught along the Florida coast during midwinter. By March some blues will have migrated north to Georgia and during

Small "snapper" blues are prized by young and old alike and can be caught from most estuary waters along the Atlantic Seaboard throughout the summer and fall. In June, when the little "choppers" first appear in the estuaries they may measure no more than 3 or 4 inches. By fall, after preying upon smaller baitfish, those same yearling blues will have attained a length of up to 12 inches and will weigh perhaps a half pound.

Shark fishermen usually encounter the first big blues of the season when fishing the 20 Fathom and beyond waters. These bigger choppers are strictly a deep water fish and do not come inshore until late in the fall when baitfish are more abundant in the shallower water region.

It is not at all unusual to be plagued by big blues when chumming for



Bob Beck nailed this 15 pound chopper on a chunk of bunker.

mako and other species of sharks during June and July and on more than one trip we've enjoyed some superb light tackle angling when fishing specifically for the big slammers while awaiting the arrival of a hungry mako.

In recent years many party boat skippers have forsaken the inshore waters to fish further off where boat traffic is less hectic and where the chances of finding bigger blues are greatly increased.

This deep water bluefishing usually starts in June and will continue throughout the summer and into late fall when the blues finally decide to retrace their migration route to southern waters.

Some party and charter skippers will chum to bring blues to the boat, while others will recommend using diamond jigs to take the bigger choppers that inhabit depths of up to more than 100 feet. Either method will produce fast action but given a choice, we'd opt for diamond jigs since the action is usually faster than waiting for a bait to drift out in the slick where a bluefish can grab hold.

Mid range waters generally provide adequate forage food for blues also. Normally, the blues will run slightly smaller than those found offshore with an average of somewhere between 4 and 10 lbs., plus an occasional larger 15 to 18 pounder mixed in to provide additional excitment.

Again, diamond jigging is extremely effective for catching these mid-range blues. Many of the charter and party boat captains who specialize in fishing for blues will chum or diamond jig, depending on existing conditions. Day tides are normally better for diamond jigging, while the after dark trips usually produce better for anglers using natural baits drifted in a chum slick of ground up menhaden (bunker).

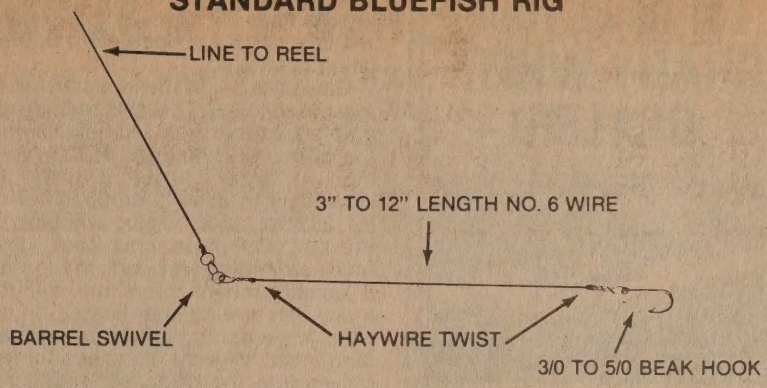
This does not mean, however, that bait will not catch fish during the day and diamonds will not work at night. A hungry bluefish is not too fussy about what he attacks and will grab most anything that moves and does not eat him first.

We carry two distinctly different outfits when fishing specifically for bluefish. One, a heavyweight conventional outfit consisting of a 7 foot boat type rod with a revolving spool reel filled with 20, 30 or 40 lb. test mono, is used when deep jigging or when drifting natural baits in a chum slick. This outfit is saved for those offshore trips where bigger fish are the rule rather than the exception as it will handle most any bluefish we are likely to hook including those rare occasions when 15 to 18 or 20 pounders are around.

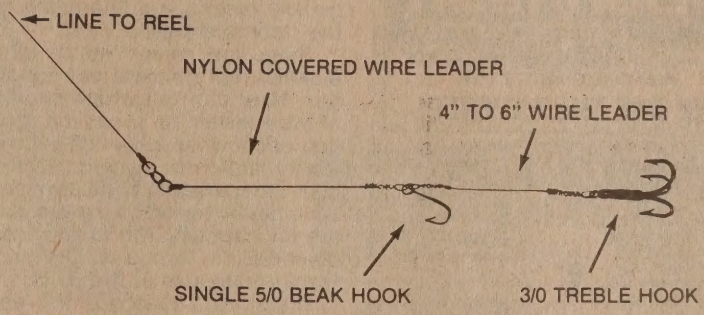
A second, much lighter outfit is used when mid-size blues predominate. This can be a conventional or spinning outfit, depending on your own personal preference. We tend to go with the revolving spool reels since they do allow more line and lure con-

(Continued on next page.)

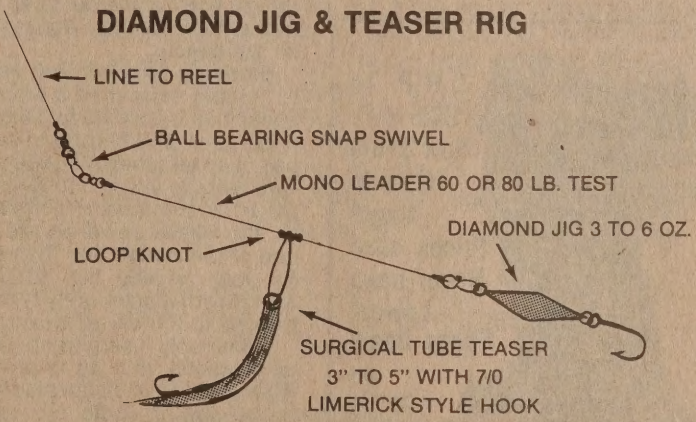
STANDARD BLUEFISH RIG



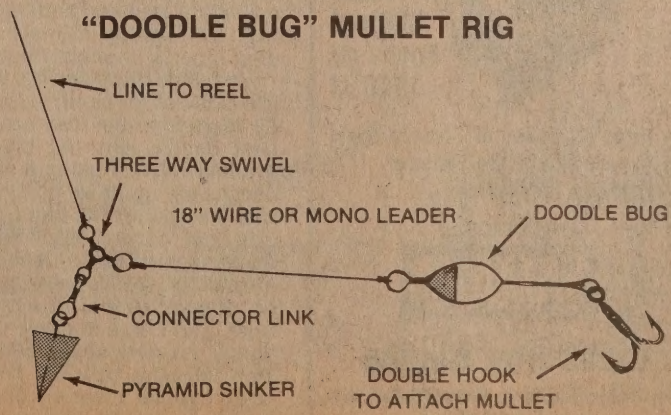
LIVE BAIT RIG



DIAMOND JIG & TEASER RIG


LINE TO REEL
BALL BEARING SNAP SWIVEL
MONO LEADER 60 OR 80 LB. TEST
DIAMOND JIG 3 TO 6 OZ.
LOOP KNOT
SURGICAL TUBE TEASER
3" TO 5" WITH 7/0
LIMERICK STYLE HOOK

"DOODLE BUG" MULLET RIG



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trol than do the spinning mills. Either way, pick an outfit that is rated to handle lines of 12 to 20 lb. test and will cast a 3 or 4 ounce weight without being overtaxed.

Blues are not in the least shy when in a mood to eat. They will rush in and grab a bait that has scarcely cleared the transom when aggressively feeding. At other times it may be necessary to allow a dropback of up to 125 feet before a blue will pick up the bait. On those occasions when blues are hitting way back in the slick it usually means there are not too many fish around and the fish do not have to be as aggressive when grabbing a bait. When a big school of fish moves into the chum slick, they become kill crazed and will try to grab anything that moves before another blue can get it, occasionally going so far as to steal a bait from the mouth of a fish that is already hooked. This usually results in a line being cut by the razor sharp teeth.

There are many, many different bluefish rigs that will put fish in the box. Most start off with a short trace of wire leader to avoid the bite-offs that occur when a blue bites down on monofilament or dacron. Others are built around a two hook arrangement so larger baits can be used, and some are constructed with treble hooks in combination with a single hook to facilitate the use of live baits.

Those we'll illustrate are popular among many bluefish experts and have been used for decades. Each is a proven fish-catcher and can be easily tied at home or when aboard a boat or on the beach.

Standard Bluefish Bait Hook: This is nothing more than a bronzed beak style hook in size 3/0 to 5/0 to which a short trace (3 to 12 inch) of wire leader has been attached. You will use a haywire twist to attach the wire leader to the hook and a second haywire to affix the barrel swivel at the opposite end of the leader. You then simply affix your running line to the barrel swivel with a snap or by tying the line directly to the barrel swivel.

Commonly used when chumming or chunking, this rig is probably the most popular of all the bluefish rigs in use today. It costs but pennies to make and can be purchased at most any shore area bait and tackle shop or from the captain or mate upon boarding a party or charter boat.

Live Bait Bluefish Rig: We've used live bunkers for bluefish for more than 20 years and feel they are one of the best day in, day out bluefish baits available. When using a live bait it is necessary to have a hook affixed near the tail for the bait to avoid bite-offs that do not result in hook-ups. Many experienced bluefishermen use a small (1/0 to 3/0) treble as a tail hook or "stinger" and a 3/0 single hook up front. The treble is placed behind the dorsal fin and embedded about 1/4 inch into the baitfish. The 3/0 front hook can be inserted ahead of the dorsal or placed through the meaty portion of the nose of the baitfish. A short trace of single strand wire leader is used to attach the front hook to the line and a nylon coated or plain tobacco stained wire leader is haywire twisted onto the treble.

This rig may seem bulky but it is a deadly bluefish catcher that will put an immediate end to those frustrating bite-offs that occur when a bluefish chops off the tail of a live bait and does not feel the sting of your hook.

Bluefish Diamond Jig and Teaser Rig: In recent years diamond jigging for big blues has become a way of life among party, charter and private boat owners. The diamond jig is universal in its fish catching appeal. The surgical tube teaser is equally effective when used alone or in combination with another lure. It stands to reason that some enterprising angler would come up with the idea to use both of these deadly lures as a combination offering. In the past ten years more and more serious bluefishermen have discovered just how effective this technique can be when blues are the target.

We do not use a wire leader with the jig and teaser rig. Some experienced bluefishermen prefer a short wire trace but from practical experience we find that not using a leader results in more hits. We do, however, lose an occasional rig, but that is part of bluefishing that must be considered when taking up the sport.

A heavy leader of 40 to 60 lb. test clear monofilament is used to construct the basic jig and teaser rig. Start off by tying a snap (not a snap swivel, just a plain snap) to the end of the leader. This is to attach the diamond jig and can be deleted if you prefer to tie direct.

Two feet above the snap form a loop knot so a loop of at least three inches is left after pulling the loop tight. This is where you will attach the surgical tube teaser. Often you will catch double headers with this arrangement.

Doodle Bug Bait Rig: Surf and jetty fishermen may find the "Doodle Bug" bait rig is their best choice for catching blues from the shallows. This rig is used when baiting with mullet, mackerel fillets, herring, bunker chunks or when fishing a live spot or small bluefish.

Most successful surf fishermen will use this rig when the blues are reluctant to strike plugs or metals and it is a very effective choice under these circumstances.

The "Doodle Bug" is nothing more than a wood or cork type float with a single or double hook attached so it can be used with large baits. In recent years styrofoam has been used as a passable substitute for the cork as it is less costly while being equally effective.

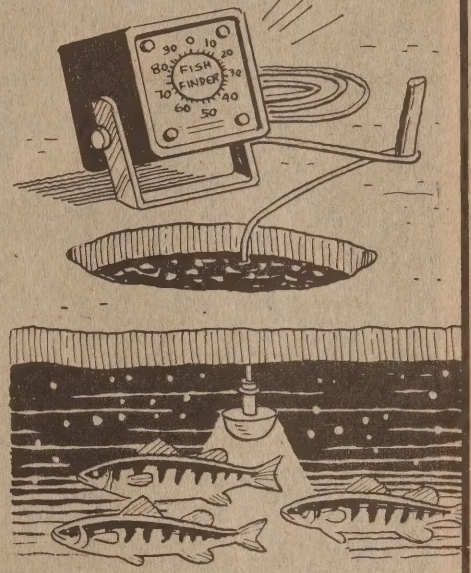
As shown in the diagram, you simply attach your bait to the hook and affix the leader to your running line. A three way swivel is used to hold the sinker so the rig is anchored on bottom where a hungry bluefish is most apt to find it and jump on.

ICE FISHING TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

BERKLEY STRIKE - A FISH ATTRACTANT SCENT SMEARED ON YOUR BAIT OR LURE IS A NEW PRODUCT KNOWN TO ENTICE FISH UNDER THE ICE WHEN THEY ARE MORE SELECTIVE AND USE THEIR SENSE OF SMELL TO DETERMINE IF A BAIT IS REAL... THE SCENT COMES IN SEVEN FLAVORS FOR THE VARIOUS POPULAR SPECIES.

DON'T SHELVE YOUR ELECTRONIC FISH-FINDER FOR THE WINTER. IT'S EVEN BETTER ON ICE BECAUSE IT'S STATIONARY. A SUDDEN BEEP OR LIGHT-UP MUST BE A FISH AND NOT A SUBMERGED OBSTRUCTION.



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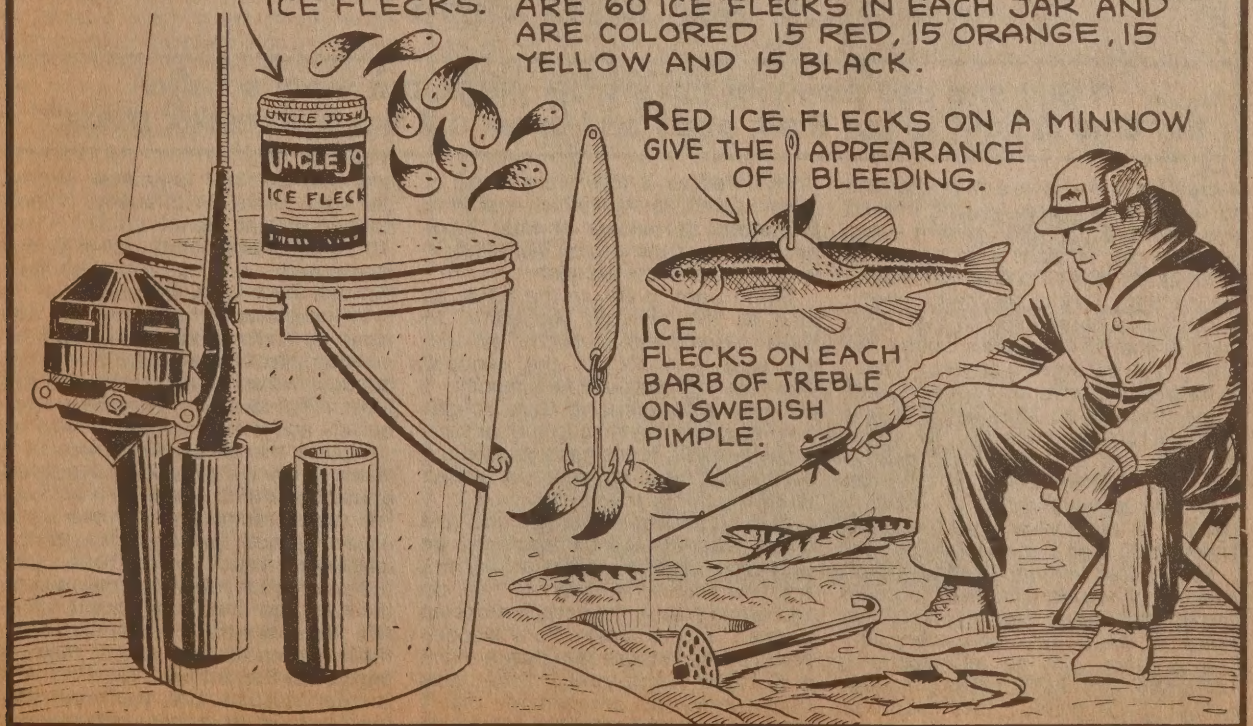
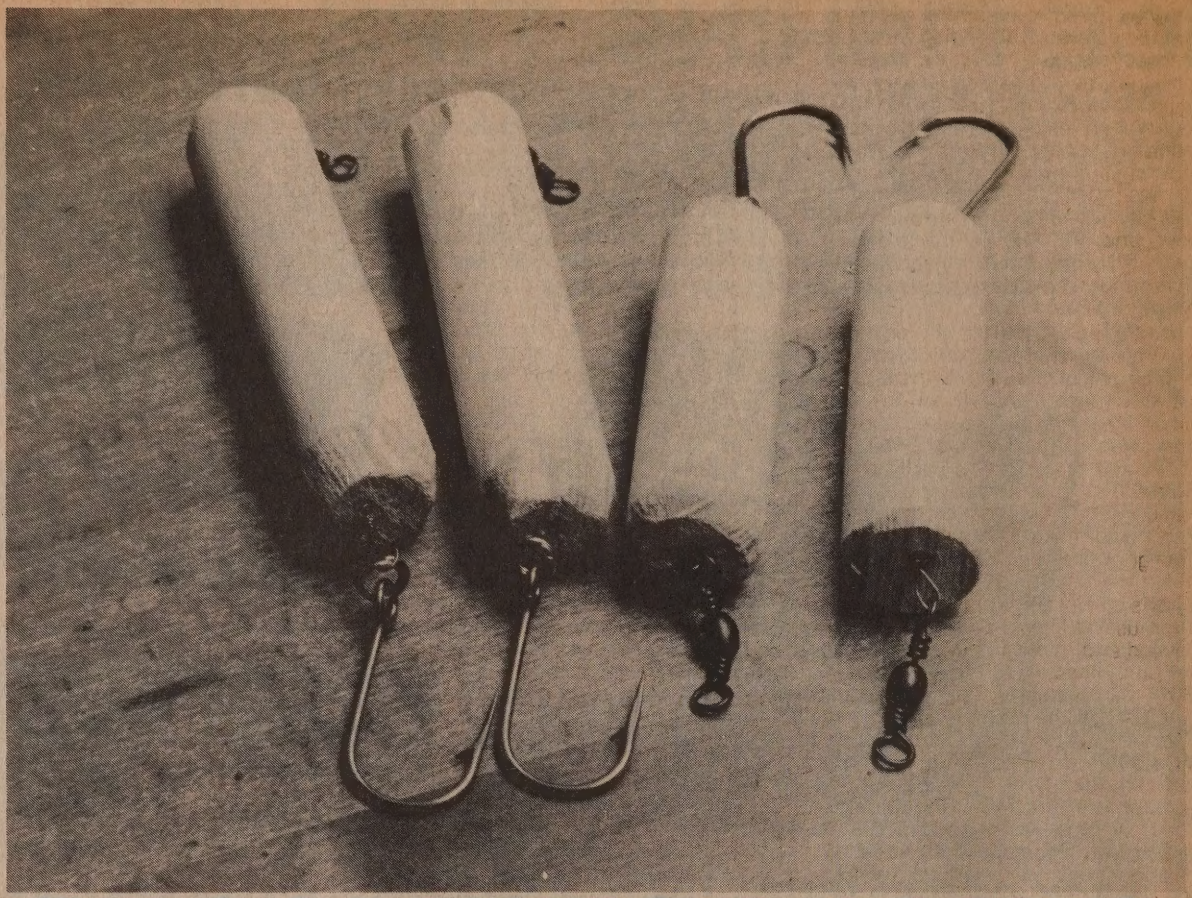

UNCLE JOSH
ICE FLECK
RED ICE FLECKS ON A MINNOW GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF BLEEDING.
ICE FLECKS ON EACH BARB OF TREBLE ON SWEDISH PIMPLE.



BROOMSTICK BLUES

by Art Michaels

"I buy and use plenty of top quality plugs, but every so often the time is right to put them away and break out the broomstick plugs."

A bluefish hitting a lure on or near the surface is spectacular. In fact, I relish this kind of action and I seek it every chance I get. If blues aren't swirling or breaking when I cruise specifically to find them, I try to get them frenetic enough in a chum slick so that after awhile they'll frequently blast an offering on the surface anyway. Then, as long as I keep the chum coming and some other factors like tide, wind and weather remain favorable, the action can stay fast and furious. Similarly, offering bluefish a surface lure can also work when the fish are driving baitfish to the surface, but the blues themselves aren't breaking water.

When this activity continues and schools of crazed choppers become larger and larger, tossing expensive lures to these fish—and eventually losing them—can be an expensive undertaking. Light tackle disintegrates. Rods break. Lines snap like thread. Tank-tough terminal connections shred as if they were made of paper. Lures, some of which cost $5 to $8 apiece, are sooner or later bludgeoned to uselessness by increasingly hungry, desperate bluefish.

Still, I want to stay in the action as long as the bluefish cooperate. In these situations, when the pickins' are easy, I don't let the chopper decimate my hard-earned money. I put away my expensive store bought offerings and break out the broomsticks—simple homemade jobs that I put together quickly each for a few cents.

These plugs are definitely not the fancy home-built ones fashioned on expensive precision electric machinery, and they're not ones you hold up and admire as if they were museum pieces. They're made from wooden broomsticks that are less than an inch in diameter. Most lures I make come from throwaway broomsticks that I rescue from garbage heaps. I try to use ones that are unpainted or that are light colors. In this way, I don't have to repaint them.

I cut a broomstick into 3 to 5 inch pieces and I drill a 1/8th inch hole through the middle longways.

Without a lathe that's hard and I do louse up some broomstick pieces by making holes that are way off center, but even if they're a little off, it's still okay. The idea is to make a lure quickly and inexpensively.

I place the broomstick piece in a vise on a workbench and by eyesight I guide the drill bit down the middle all the way through the 3 inchers and usually about halfway through the longer broomstick pieces. Then I turn the broomstick piece the other way in the vise and drill through the other end. Sure, it's not precise, and often the holes don't line up exactly, but it's inexpensive and quick.

After you do a few, you'll see that the 3 inchers are a snap, and that the

4 to 5 inchers are tougher with more casualties. Even if you drill some plug bodies so off center that they must be discarded, you're still way ahead in this money saving game.

Next, I taper the hook end of the lure with an electric drill and rasp attachment. Then I form a loop around a single hook on one end of a .022 inch to .026 inch diameter single strand wire, run it through the center, and put a size 3 black barrel swivel on the other end. I just curl the wire around itself in a terrible looking Haywire twist fashion.

I use a single size 3/0 hook for the 3 inch lures, a 4/0 hook for the 4 inchers and a 5/0 hook for the 5 inchers. I most often use Eagle Claw 254 SS hooks originally, and replace each as necessary with a Mustad 9510X3S with the addition of a size 7 split ring.

Sometimes I attach a homemade banana rig to the back of the lure, which I also make from various sizes of surge hose and Mustad 31022 hooks.

That's it. Nothing fancy. Definitely not a museum piece, either. Splits in the wood and minor imperfections remain untouched.

But when I grab an angry chopper by the back of the neck after it's tried desperately to do in my broomstick plug and I've wrestled it into the boat, I can tell that it couldn't care less about splits in the wood and slightly off-center holes.

I toss my broomstick offerings at breaking or swirling fish, or in any area where I think I can coax choppers to come up and take them. I like long casts, so with the 5 inchers I often use a 7 foot popping rod matched with Penn 109 or 940 reels and 12 to 17 lb. test mono.

I also use much lighter tackle with the 3 inch and 4 inch plugs. For instance, I catch a lot of blues on broomstick plugs offered on a 6½ foot glass spinning rod matched with 8 lb. test mono, or a 6 foot baitcasting rod and reel filled with 10 lb. mono.

Most broomsticks don't float well, even though they're made of wood. No big deal. Just retrieve the plug quickly so that it looks like a baitfish that's getting away. In most cases, the chopper that zeroes in on it, slashing away until it solidly connects, doesn't mind whether the lure was on or near the surface. And believe me—I've checked this out enough with one knee on angry bluefish that still try to eat these plugs and do me in as well as they thrash around my boat deck.

I buy and use plenty of top quality plugs and metals, but every so often the time is right to put them away and break out the broomstick plugs. Remember that we're talking cheap here: rush jobs with obvious imperfections and mistakes that you could make in your basement right now.

You want something you can put together very inexpensively that bluefish love? You need a task to ward off cabin fever this winter? Make a bunch of broomstick plugs!

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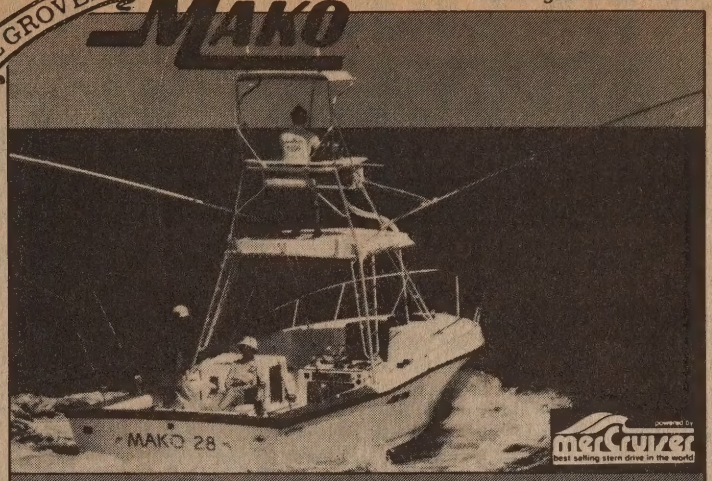

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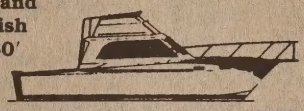

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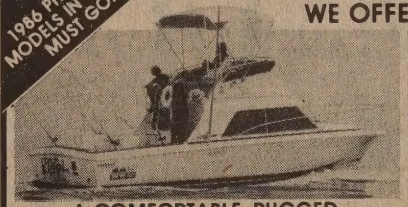

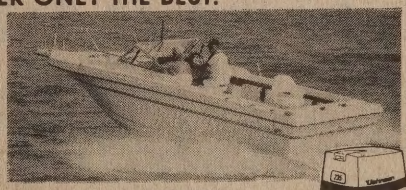

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WINTER MAINTENANCE:

LURES

by Boyd Pfeiffer

While rods and reels are a major investment in tackle and obviously should have winter tackle checks, other tackle also requires a seasonal check-up. Lures are small in size and perhaps individual cost, but a tackle box full represents a major chunk of change. As a result, as soon as possible after each season, it helps to spread out all lures to check for any damage and make any possible repairs.

Probably the single most important thing that you can do with any lure on a regular basis is to sharpen the hooks. This means on fishing trips and through the season, but it also helps to give any lure a head start on this by sharpening them all now, when you have time, when you are not pressured by the immediacy of fishing. This is a must even for new lures. No hook manufacturer can make a hook as sharp as they can be sharpened, although the new chemically sharpened hooks do come close.

To sharpen a hook, use a small hook hone for small hooks and a large file for larger saltwater hooks. Good hook hones and sharpeners are made by Diamond Machining Technology, Eze-Lap, Gaines, J and L, and others. Good files include those by Luhr Jensen and regular fast cutting files like those found in hardware stores by Red Devil and Nicholson.

To properly sharpen a straight point hook, use a file or hone at an angle to the point and working on both sides of the point. Finish off by running the file across the bottom or outside of the point to make for a triangular point for easy quick penetration. For curved point hooks, use a curved hone and touch up just the inside of the point area.

To check a point for sharpness, touch the point to your thumb nail. If sharp, it will grab immediately; if not, it will slide.

Other maintenance checks for various types of lures include:

Plugs: Most plugs of wood or plastic can take a pretty good beating. Plugs can become dirty, in which case a simple scrubbing (watch out for the hooks) with a brush in warm sudsy water will make them new looking again. At this time, check for any cracks in the finish or through the plastic. Hollow plastic plugs if cracked can be repaired by lightly sanding or filing the cracked area and filling in with a good 24 hour epoxy glue.

A cracked paint finish on a wood plug will allow water intrusion in time that will cause the wood to swell and ruin the plug. To prevent this, either repaint the plug or coat with a clear finish. Good paints and a good clear finish are available from The Color Box. Small bottles of basic paint colors are made expressly for lure painting, and designed for easy use with a brush applicator cap.

Check all the hardware at the same time, including screws, hook hangers, wobbling plates, propellers, tail spinners, etc. Replace any that are weak, corroded or dull. Some plates and blades can be polished with a metal polish to bring them back to original brightness. Those lures with loose plastic (usually Lexan) lips and bills can be reglued with a good 24 hour epoxy.

Replace any broken, rusted or weak hooks. This can be done by removing the screw-in hook hanger, opening it and adding a new hook, or cutting off the old hook and replacing it with an open eye hook or hook attached with a split ring.

Spoons: There are a number of types of metal spoons including weedless bass fishing spoons, swinging hook structure and jigging spoons and fixed hook trolling spoons.

Sharpen hooks and replace them where necessary. Often trolling spoons with fixed single hooks are bolted in place so that they can be removed, sharpened, feather tails retied and replaced on the lure. Naturally, while the hook is removed, the spoon blade can be polished with Flitz or a similar metal polish.

Weedless spoons for bass fishing can get bent weed guards that can be returned to shape with pliers.

Hose Lures: Saltwater trolling hose made of rubber or vinyl plastic hose will break down in time. Until that happens, however, these lures are pretty indestructible. At the end of each season, flush through the hose with fresh water, or soak the lures in warm freshwater to remove corrosive salt that can attack the cable or wire running through the lure. Sharpen the hook.

Spinners: Spinners are mostly metal with some plastic parts. Polish all the metal parts with metal polish and check the hooks, replacing them if necessary. Make sure that the clevises work well and turn the blades freely so that the lure will work well next season.

Spinnerbaits: Check the blades and metal parts as with spinners to make sure that they are working properly. Spinnerbaits have lead heads that can be repainted by dipping, brushing or spraying. If spraying, you must mask the rest of the lure with masking tape or cardboard templates. Again, colors from The Color Box are ideal for this, although automotive touch-up paints that also have a brush in the cap are good also.

Check hooks, sharpen them and check clevises for easy spinning of blades.

Skirts on spinnerbaits often become matted and soft and should be replaced. A product that will help this in the future is Un-Gum, made by Bumble Bee and designed to prevent gumming and matting of all types of lure skirts.

Buzzbaits: Use the same methods as indicated above for spinnerbaits checking the blades, polishing metal blades, checking hooks and changing skirts as required.

Jigs: Remove, replace or retie any skirts. Vinyl, rubber, living rubber and plastic skirts can be replaced since most of these are simply slip-on styles. Tied on skirts of fur or feathers that are damaged or cut up by bluefish can be cut off and retied. To retie, use rod wrapping thread (A for small jigs and D for larger ones) and wrap around the collar several turns, cut any excess thread, wrap down the skirt or tail material, clip any excess material and completely wrap the collar area. Finish with several half hitches and coat the wrap with epoxy, paint or fly tying head cement. One easy way to seal the thread wrap is to dip the head to paint it at the same time, covering the thread wrap with paint that will serve as a sealer.

Soft Plastics: Soft plastic lures, whether offshore trolling lures or bass fishing plastic worms, can't really be repaired. Usable parts can be cut off, however, and resealed with heat to other parts to make new lures. To do this, use a cigarette lighter to melt the joining parts and join them while still molten.

Sometimes colors from one plastic lure will bleed into another, particularly when differnt colors are stored in the same lure compartment in a tackle box. This can be prevented by storing different colors in different

compartments, but once it occurs, can't be corrected. You can use The Color Box DipNDye to color the plastics a darker color, but can't turn dark color lures into lighter colored ones.

Flies and Bass Bugs, Popping Bugs: Flies and bass bugs must also be sharpened using a fine hook hone. Also, flies only stay together because of the sealer (fly head cement) on the wrapped knotted thread head and this can become worn. Replace where required to prevent unraveling of the thread. On bluefish or saltwater flies, coat this head with epoxy for added durability. Bass bugs and saltwater popping bugs often become chipped around the edges of the bug, or the leading edge of the cupped face. A quick simple solution here is a touch up with nail polish, although for a permanent repair, repaint the bug after using a sealer or primer coat on this open area.

The important thing about all the above is that none of it takes much time. It can be done in stages as you wish all winter and anything done before the first cast will do a lot to ensure good fishing next season and more fish in the livewell.

Photo One: Dipping jigs in enamel for a repair of these lures.

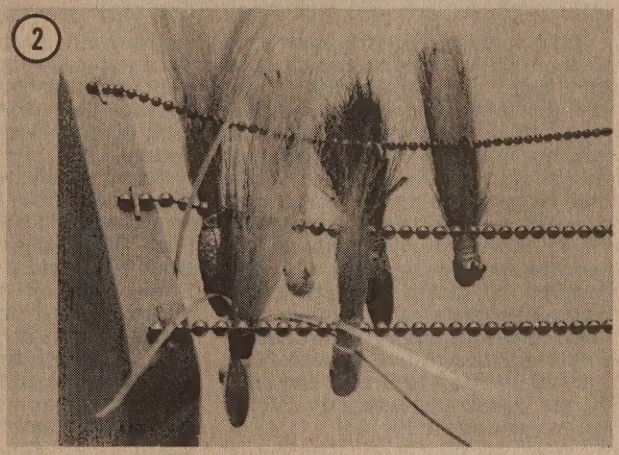
Photo Two: All painted lures must be hung up to dry. The best way to do this is to use a rack of chain or bead chain as shown to keep the lures separated.

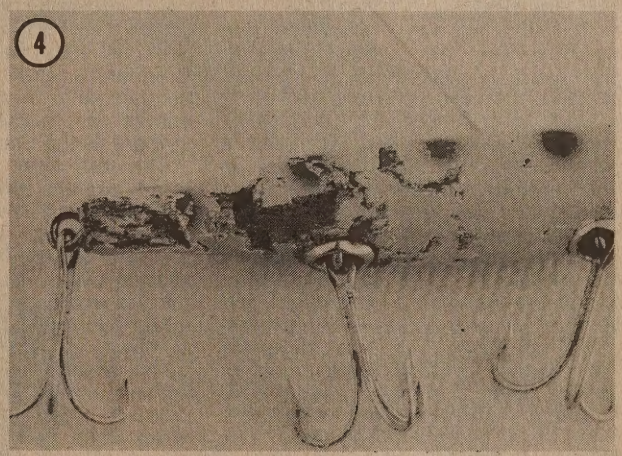
Photo Three: Example of trolling spoon with new skirted hook in place, alongside older chewed hooks.

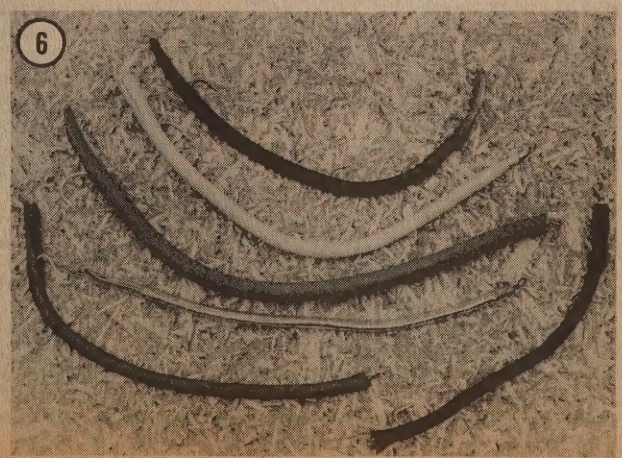
Photo Four: Damaged wood plugs may look terrible, but can be restored to fishing use with several coats of durable paint, such as that by The Color Box.

Photo Five: Here a spinnerbait head is being painted with durable, nylon based nail polish.

Photo Six: Hose lures like these should be flushed out with warm fresh water, sprayed with a demoisturizer and the hooks sharpened.







FLASHBACK 1986

SOUTH SHORE WEST

Part Two — *by Stu Miller*

Our West End reporter concludes his review of the highs and lows of the 1986 fishing season.

July: July started off as a solid week of fishing both offshore and on the inside, with a relatively stable weather pattern hanging around. The keeper fluke are now a lot larger as are the flounder which are being picked in the deeper holes, while there were tons and tons of blues just about all over the place, to alligator size off the beach and off the Jersey coast. Weaks showed, as did blue claws and snappers. Mako and blue shark, along with various tunas were also in evidence. Hotspots for flatties were Big M and Haunt's Creek. Good sea bass on offshore wrecks and bluefin and yellowfin tuna at the Texas Tower. How about Bill Hall's 11 lb. 10 oz. weak on bunker at the Marine Parkway Bridge.

The following week had inshore and offshore fishing ranging from good to very good. Mako action really picked up and yellowfin tuna and BET and making their presence known. Numbers of fluke remain very high, with a small percentage of keepers as before. Flounder stayed moderately strong in the deeper and cooler waters. Blue claw crabs made their presence known. Virtually everyone caught fish this week who wet a line. Super bluefishing day and night and also for private boats working along the beaches. A 7 lb. 4 oz. fluke for Russ Brown at Black Banks. Lots of makos taken this week. Cholera infested with blues. A great white shark is on for 6 hours for Bob Jelly. The Charvin Shark Tourney is copped by a 327 lb. mako caught by Roy Mains. Excellent sea bass on the offshore wrecks. A 9 lb. 11 oz. fluke wins the Charlie Nappi Fluke Tourney on a live bergall. A 9 lb. fluke is taken on the Zephyr at Sheepshead.

The third week ends with strong fishing all week inshore and off. The Canyon and Texas Tower areas came alive. The bluefishing was super hot, from the beaches all the way on out. Inside, tons of fluke continue to provide action with a passable number of keepers. Flounder have again taken hold, while blueclaws and snappers are starting to show. Weaks at the bridges mainly at night on worms fished on the bottom. It's 17 and the Mudhole for the day and night blues. A 417 lb. tiger shark for Al Nawroth at the Virginia wreck. Tuna at the canyon and tower. Plenty of flounder around, plenty of fluke in Jamaica Bay, while sea bass, blacks and porgies are starting on the bottom.

The next week was a combo of good weather and good fishing. Lots of very solid catches in both bay and ocean. A huge mako taken at Hudson Canyon, while fluke and flounder continue to furnish lots of action and fillets. Weaks still at the bridges on worms or bunker. Plenty of blue claws, snapper and sand porgies. Quite a bit of everything around. Bluefin tuna and yellowfin tuna in full swing. A lot of large fluke and naturally, tons of shorties. An 848 lb. mako on Bill Rauft's Deeper on a fresh trolled squid at the Canyon. The Apus III bags its 15th mako of the season. Great blues continued, day and night. Stripers and blues at the ABB on bunker or bucktails. Weaks and stripers at the Shoal Buoy.

The last week of the month saw some calm and some crummy weather putting down the bluefish action some. Fluking remained hot, still plenty of shorts, but a slightly better keeper ratio being noted. Sand porgies in the bay, with snappers and weaks still there. Blowfish have made a showing. Offshore blues were super till the weather turned. Plenty of tuna action from the Tower to the Canyon. Lots of tigers, hammerheads and mako shark being caught. Good sea bass off the Highlands and fair porgies off the Rockaways.

August: Unsettled weather including some downpours put a note of inconsistency in the action. Nonetheless, some very good hauls were made inshore and offshore. Fluke held steady with an improved keeper ratio, while day blues held strong, nights becoming erratic. Sand porgies and snappers settled in strong and blue claws came into their own. The warm water gave a big boost to the shark and tuna ction and also moved it a lot closer to home. Tuna at the Linda wreck and from the NA-Patchogue. Weaks at the 3rd Wantagh. Big stripers falling to eels and bunker. Excellent blues at 17. Loads of tinker mackerel and snappers around

As the second week of August passed, we sampled some more unstable weather which resulted in fishing that changed from day to day. Blues were on the slightly erratic side, while yellowfin tuna built steadily offshore. Flounder were still caught in the deeper holes in the bays and at the bridges. Fluke remained the same; plenty of action and plenty of midgets, but still very worthwhile. Keepers increasing in size, too. Off this week were blue claws, snappers, pin bass and sand porgies. Yellowfin tuna running 30 to 110 lbs. Hammerheads being caught. Offshore sea bass a good item. A 60 lb. wahoo for Steve Zaretsky near the NA, yellowfin tuna at the Canyon. Good blacks at the Big M. Absolutely super fluking off Riis Park. Jamaica Bay full of life. More weaks now, mixed in with blues. An 8 lb. 8 oz. fluke is pulled in Zachs Bay. Sea bass, porgies and ling excellent on wrecks, rocks and reefs. A fair number of large fluke to 9 lbs.

The third week of the month had as its biggest news, the exceptional fluking at Ambrose Channel. The bottom seemed to be paved with fluke and keeper ratios were very high. Blues ran hot and cold, but there were very few shutouts. Flounder were there for the serious pounders in the deeper holes. Offshore yellowfin tuna was only "fair" this week. Blacks started at the bridges, while pin bass and sand porgies, blueclaws and snappers continue good. Neil Rose took 3 huge flounder: 4.4, 3.7 and 3.3 pounds, all in Merrick Bay. Great fluke also off Riis with about a 70 percent keeper ratio. Sea bass, ling and porgies on the wrecks to the west. Lots of blue claw crabs in Middle Bay.

Plenty of wind and rain for the last week of August. Fishing off, but far from a total bust. Blues had their ups and down, fish from 1 to 15 lbs. caught. Quantities were off, however. Fluking was fair, with some excellent catches and good keeper ratios. Flounder, sea bass and porgies were picked throughout the bays and especially at the bridges. Snappers were excellent and blue claws were a dependable item almost everywhere. A few scattered weaks and blues taken at the bridges at night. Sea bass strong at the 3rd Wantagh. Yellowfin tuna at the Yankee Wreck, 25 to 80

lbs. Lot of sea bass, porgies and some flounder inside. Lots of stripers to 12 lbs. around. The draggers put a hurt on the fluking at Ambrose by allegedly dragging the area at night. Blues strong to 18 lbs. at Norton's Point.

September: Fall fishing really took off the first week of September, both inshore and offshore. Tuna were super to the point where tuna buyers were turning away fish. Fish were mostly yellowfin tuna with a sprinkling of football bluefins. Fluke keeper ratios inside have improved with a lot of keepers bigger. Mixed bags of flounder, sea bass, porgies and kings along with snappers and blue claws filling out catches very nicely. Blues ranged from good to excellent, depending on the day and boat. Alligators have started to show up, fish to 20 lbs. Blacks good at Big M. A 19 lb. 7 oz. blue wins the Arthur Smith Bluefish Tournament. Lots of bluefin tuna and yellowfin tuna were chummed at the Canyon at night, also at Mud Hole West. Kingfish and crabs good. Day and night blues were fantastic. A 9¼ lb. fluke taken by Joe Dimicelli on live snapper at Big M. Good sea bass and blacks at the bridges. Total weight category in the Arthur Smith won by Rich Lehr's crew, the catch being worth a $12,000 prize figure. Weaks in State Ch. on bunker. Lots of sand porgies and snappers in Jamaica Bay. Big blacks and porgies off the Jersey Coast.

The following week, probably due to winds and rain, saw action not great but not a dud either. Offshore slowed down a bit with intermittent shots of yellowfin tuna being taken. Blues ran hot and cold, but with a lot more alligators in evidence. The tail end of the fluking and the start of the fall flounder action was noted, along with a good mixed bag of pin bass, sand porgies, snappers and blacks inside. Some great fluke catches, now with a 50 percent keeper ratio. Yellowfin tuna trolled at the Virginia. Some strong flounder catches and lots of sea bass at Cholera and Angler Banks. Stripers on bunker at the ABB. Good mixed bags from the Jamaica Bay Bridges. The west end fluking remained good.

The third week gave us more unsettled weather. Even so, some very decent catches were made of just about everything in the area from tuna to pin bass. Fluke, sea bass and a lot of flounder, weather permitting. Heavy on robins. Loads of snappers. Local wrecks were great for sea bass and blacks, while day and night blues held steady. Good yellowfin tuna at the Canyon. It's a 13 lb. 14 oz. weak for Jose Espinal on a squid strip. Mixed blues, stripers and weaks being trolled. Word of a couple of giant tuna in the 500 to 600 lb. range. Blacks excellent. Lots of yellowfin and bluefin tuna at Mud Hole West.

The final week of September yielded solid mixed bags inside, including the still lingering fluke. Flounder, sea bass, porgies, blues, weaks, kings, blacks and blowfish were all caught, while on the outside the week saw fair to excellent blues day and night, with some trips better than others. Most are running large now. Lots of mako and tuna at the Canyon. Ocean wrecks had very good sea bass, porgies and blacks. Lots of tuna, shark and a few giants at Mud Hole West. Monster blues at offshore wrecks. Super blacks at Big M.

October: Good mixed bags during the first week, though the flounder could have been better. Good combos of blacks, flounder, sea bass, porgies, kings, blows and fluke provided a lot of action. A lot of blues inside and offshore as well, with real monsters on the offshore wrecks. The Canyon had super action on tuna and mako shark. blacks strong at the Big M and 2nd Wantagh. A 14 oz. 4 oz. weak taken on a drifted bunker off the J.B. piers. Big blues blitzing all over inside, with weaks mixed in. Blues at Cholera and 17 day and night into the high teens. Bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, longfin albacore and dolphin with sword and makos at Canyon. Excellent mixed bag fishing inside, mostly sea bass. Mixed bags also at the wrecks and in Middle Bay.

The next week's catches ranged

(Continued on next page.)

Big blues kept anglers busy all fall inside the western bays. Jack Atwell and Larry Powell took these in Swift Creek on live bunker.

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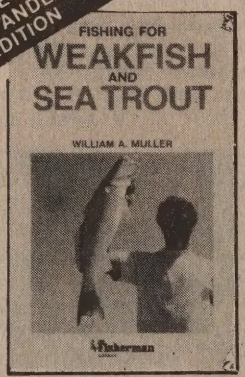

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from picky to fantastic on various species in the area. Fall flounder have yet to really put on a good showing, but the slack was taken up by sea bass, blacks and porgies. Providing dynamite action most of the time have been the bluefish which are into the upper teens. The Canyon tuna action for those who could manage the trip has been the best in recent history. Bluefin tuna, longfin albacore, yellowfin tuna were caught almost nonstop. The Blue Fin III had a few excellent tuna trips. Mixed bags on all wrecks. Good sea bass and blacks at Big M. Lots of big stripers caught and released.

The next week contained several days of strong winds, making inshore and offshore inconsistent, much of this due to lack of fishermen. Best of the week was the offshore blues and the mixed bags in the bay. As the bay waters were still warm, the flatties have not yet made their expected strong fall showing. A fair day's weather usually yielded a fair pick of flatties. Sea bass, blacks and porgies were good on wrecks on good days. Almost 100 porgies for 2 pals off the Sheepshead docks.

The next week could be classified fair to good, depending on the day and species sought. Flounder were best in size and number behind Freeport and Merrick and had to really be worked for in all areas. Catches of pin bass and sand porgies in the bay dropped a lot with cooler water. Jumbo blues dominate the scene, both offshore, along the beaches and on the inside, where they have been following the bunker schools. Craig Javett bagged a 22¼ lb. blue in Jones Inlet on a drifted live bunker.

The final week of this month was headlined by great bluefishing and blackfishsing plus a sudden spurt in Canyon action for all the tuna family. Fall floundering has still been punk, due to the warm water in the bays, but those being caught were very decent sized. Ocean bottom was very good on blacks and sea bass. Jumbo blues at Cholera, Farms and 17.

November: We all know flounder like cold water and we had plenty of patience, but it got ridiculous after awhile. They stayed picky, though large in size. Bluefishing continued very strong while the inshore wrecks continued to offer plenty of sea bass, blacks, some porgies and a few ling. Canyon tuna action was super with one boat tallying 61 tunas to 160 lbs. Lots of blue claws at Massapequa Cove. Blues 3 to 18 lbs. and strong. Sea bass, porgies and blacks on ocean bottom with a few flounder, fluke and blues mixed in. Tuna at the Canyon to 150 lbs. with as many being dropped as caught. Good blackfishing at the J. Bay bridges.

Week two of November saw doggies invading inshore and offshore wrecks, usually a forerunner of cod. Big porgies along with medium sea bass and porgies were caught on these same wrecks. Tuna continued

superb at the Canyon. Captain Al Coley's Betty W IV had a super catch with 32 men landing 232 YFT and BFT to 160 lbs. Bluefishing was excellent with alligators in residence all over the place. Inside, flounder were fair to good and continued to pick up as the water cooled off. Big blues also at the bridges.

Week three saw cod starting to show slowly but surely, with a couple of party boats working daily and others to start their codding shortly. Cod were in the 20s and were wreck fish. Combos of blues, stripers and some weaks still parading in local waters. The blues are nearly all jumbos. Inside, it's mixed bags of flounder, blacks and small sea bass, though the catches have been poor to fair. More YFT and longfin albacore from the Canyon. Good open bottom action on blacks, sea bass and porgies with a few 25 to 30 lb. cod mixed in. Blues super at 17. By the end of the month, there were more cod being caught on the wrecks. Fish were of quite decent size, though the numbers are not there yet. Blues seemed to have departed the bays and catches have been lighter on the head boats. Flattie activity inside has picked up some. Tuna still abounded at the Canyon with yet another great catch on the Betty W IV, 125 tuna. Blackfishing slowed. Cod, blues, sea bass and porgies on wrecks and open bottom. Quality size cod caught on the Capt. Al by angler Charlie Lehr of 30, 32, 35 and 37 lbs. Dave Antoine hosted a 40 pounder.

December: Would you believe the blues were still here into December? Well, they were. Flounder made a pretty good showing for a change, too, with mixed fish to 2½ lbs. The cooler waters have also boosted the blackfishing on offshore pieces and ocean rock piles, with local bridge abutments also seeing some action. Codding was fair, with many fish in the 30s.

The second week of December we got belted with wind and rain. Fair numbers of cod on wrecks and open bottom this week with a lot of dogs for company. Flounder were picky, but the ones caught were very nice sized. Best bet of the week was the blackfishing at 17. Just about everyone scored well. A few 18 to 28 lb. cod in 110 feet of water south of J.I. Cod in the 30s on the head boats.

The tird week had chill northwest winds and temps blowing in, putting a hurt on the ability of most boats to get out much this week. This enabled Sunday's codfishing to be pretty decent and a few respectable catches were put away. Flounder on the inside stayed picky, but anglers with a lot of patience and chumming heavily had big flounder as their reward. Blackfishing to the west has also been a good item. Offshore wrecks holding a good number of big cod in the 25 to 40 lb. range.

And there you have it: 1986 in a kind of large nutshell. Hope you caught your share of these critters.

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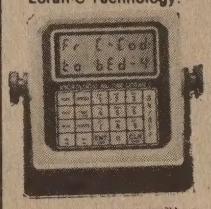

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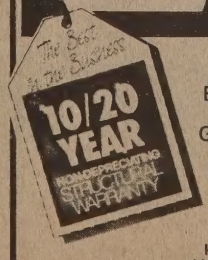

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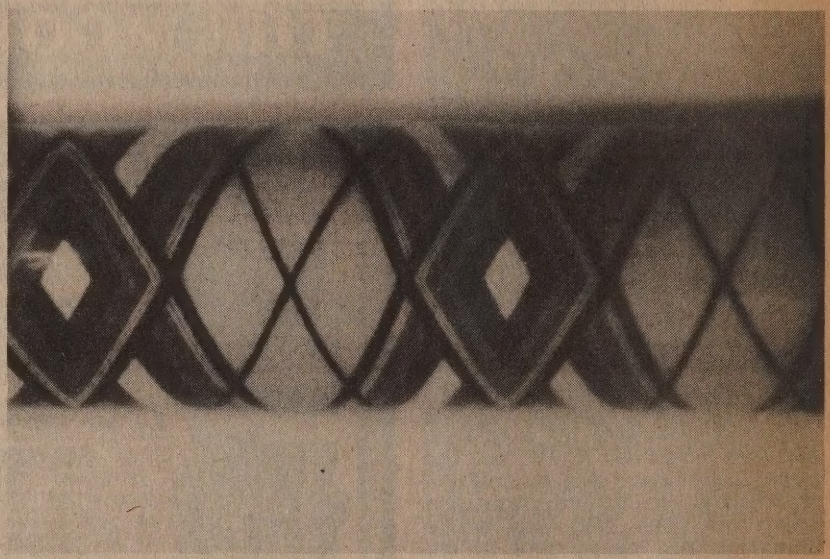
CUSTOM BUTT WRAPS: EXPANSIONS

by Ted Bingham

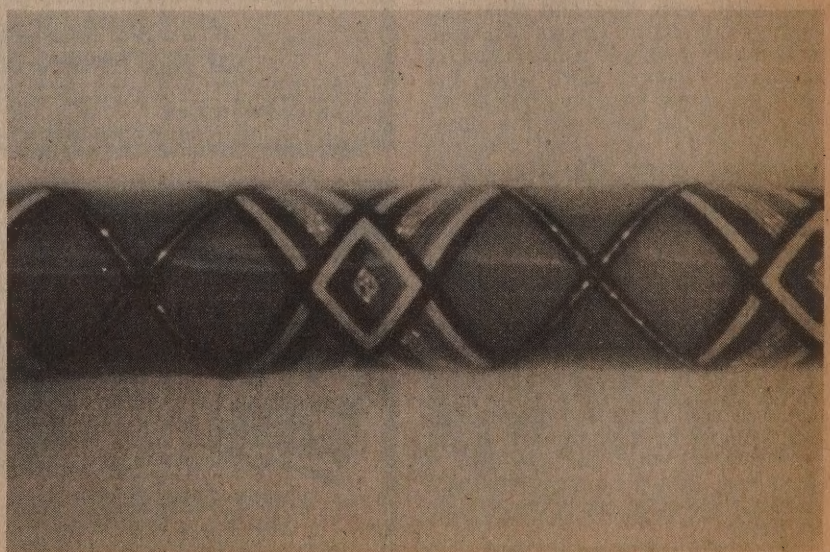
The placement of trim threads around a wrap is something we all do. As discussed earlier this contrasting color highlights the main theme of the pattern. Since a diamond itself is nothing more than a succession of smaller patterns within each other, it's logical to assume that a trim thread can also serve as a part of something larger. Envision, for a moment, exactly what has formed when a diamond is completed. The combined bands of thread don't entirely cover the blank. In the area that isn't covered the blank, or underwrap, shows through. This void, like the design, takes the shape of a diamond. Depending upon its size the pattern is often overshadowed by this area. Many crafters utilize trim threads to subdue its effects. In doing so, you'll discover a Pandora's box of new possibilities. The first method would be to locate the exact center of the void. Spiral a thread up and down, crossing over this point. This trim thread breaks this empty area into four subtle diamond shapes. The next process is basically the same only instead of centering the trim thread, place it a few thread widths away from the original design. This will require two lengths of thread. The first crosses above, the other below the pattern. The result is that the void is broken into five diamonds: four small ones around the larger center void. The final series of extensions should be clear by now. Use each trim thread as the center for an entirely new diamond. What we have done, without realizing it, is place the layout thread for a double axis wrap. There are three common patterns that can result. Two diamonds on the same axis, diamonds touching diamonds and the third is diamonds surrounding diamonds.

Placing two patterns on the same axis utilizes the single center trim thread. After you're certain it's centered in the void, begin wrapping a standard diamond around it. This forms a series of small diamonds between those of the original larger wrap. The bands of thread that comprise this small design, will pass over and midway between, the bands leading to the larger pattern. This can be reversed with some advanced planning and wrapping the smaller pattern first. The actual size, shape and color of each design is the prerogative of the designer.

The next method that allows diamonds to touch each other requires a spacing change. The proper effect can't be obtained if a square or elongated, across the blank, layout is used. Both will produce a congested appearance. The proper layout is the elongated across the axis pattern. Depending upon the blank diameter, the spacing could be as much as twice the norm. What we are going to do is wrap the pattern until the points of both diamonds touch each other. After completing the first elongated pattern, find and mark the center of the void. With this as the focal point, begin the smaller second elongated design. Continue until the two points meet. The odds are, unless you're ex-



A single cross thread between the diamonds can change the entire appearance of a pattern.

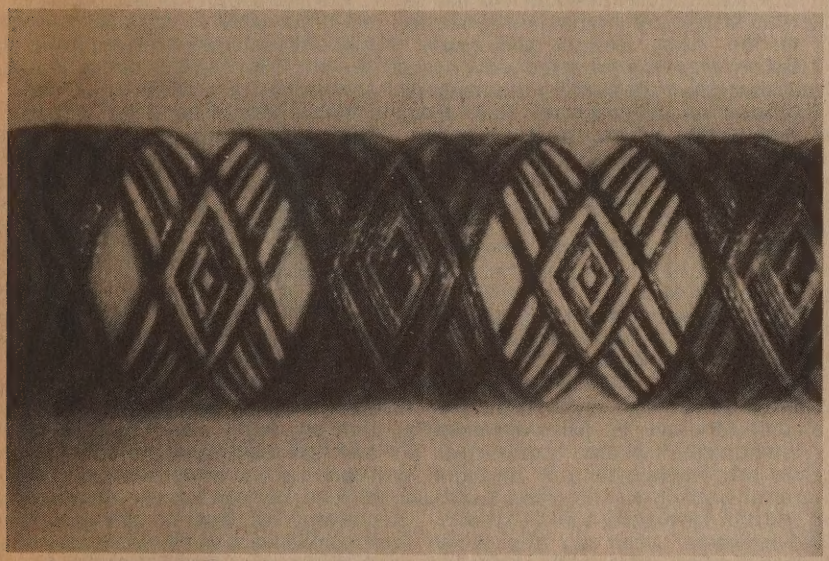


Mylar thread can be used separately or in conjunction with the main pattern.

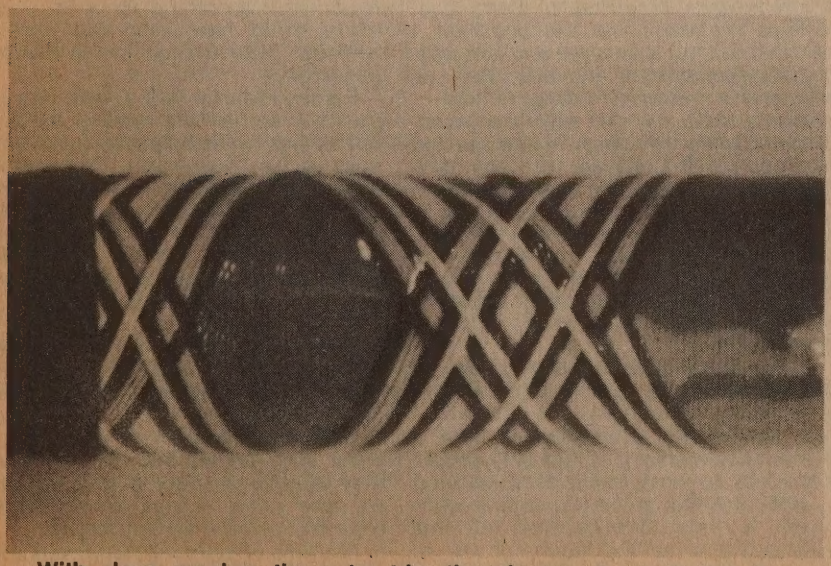
tremely fortunate, some manipulation of both patterns will be necessary in order to fit the last few threads in. By using the techniques for tightening, discussed last week, there shouldn't be any difficulty. Because of the close proximity of patterns, it is suggested that the colors of each be the same or at least similar.

The touching pattern covers almost the entire blank. An opposite procedure, spacing, can create some unique designs. This is accomplished by deliberately allowing spaces to appear between threads. Begin with a small diamond of only a few threads. Additional threads are laid parallel, but apart, from the previous ones. The spacing between each thread, or bands of threads, may be symmetrical or varied as long as they remain parallel. This can result in anything from a checkerboard type design to a grid work of various diamonds. The outcome is dependent upon both, trim threads and the color(s) of the blank or underwrap that are allowed to show through.

Diamonds surrounding diamonds is a very distinctive pattern. In it, four small separate diamonds, are placed around a central diamond. Although it is used in many various combinations, I suggest trying it first on a single axis pattern. After becoming accustomed to the procedure, experience will make working with double axes less confusing. The wrap should be performed on a fairly large diameter blank due to the space that it requires. With small diameter sticks the intricacy gets lost in the congestion. Lay out and complete a single axis diamond. Keep track of thread color, order and number of threads. They will be used later to duplicate the internal pattern, on the outside. The original wrap should be relatively small. Its size will be dependent upon the diameter of the blank. Remember, you want the entire pattern to be visible without curving around the blank. If the initial layout is large, the sides of the cluster will disappear. For an example pattern, make the central diamond a total of nine threads. Surround this with thread placed 5 widths to the outside. This will require two lengths: the first will cross above; the other below the center diamond. Be certain they are parallel and the same color as that of the original if identical patterns are desired. This, then, is the center thread for the outside double axis pattern. Label the threads crossing above as #1 and those below as #2. Now wrap the two designs as you would any other double axis (see last week). In case you forgot, it's #1 first thread-right, #2 first thread right, #1 first-left, #2 first-left Continue the sequence until the four space gap is filled. Try to keep the threads parallel along the entire length and use the same color order as before. After some manipulation the last thread will fit. The pattern will now show four identical diamonds surrounding one in the center. Border the entire cluster with a contrasting color and the project is complete.



A center cross thread may be enlarged into an entirely new diamond.



With close spacing, the outer trim threads may be built into four diamonds, surrounding one in the center.

Variations on this format abound. The first that comes to mind is, rather than the border, begin with the whole process over again. Surround the surrounders if blank diameter allows. The next idea would be to change the size of the internal diamond, make it larger or smaller than those outside. My final proposal is to change the colors of the center and the double axes.

By now I hope a building pattern is starting to come into focus. Whole, separate designs, or just individual strands, can be added to create totally new patterns. Understanding and becoming familiar with, double axis and single outside thread designs are very important. A basic concept of each is a prerequisite for many future, more elaborate patterns.

Aligning the axes should not cause any problem; just use caution and check your work. Single threads can be difficult to align. A possible solution would be to employ the use of a spacer. This can be a piece of cardboard or an old (overused) credit card. Cut a strip, as wide as the desired open space and round the edges. Spiral the single thread and use the strip to push it into its proper position. If your burnishing tool is the correct size it could be used instead. Again, don't spend excessive time aligning threads. Placement within one or two widths, consistently, is more than adequate. If you can accomplish this by eye, all the better. Remember that regardless of how precise you are, manipulation will still be needed for the last few threads.

Next week's project will be anything but prosaic. We'll discover how to split a diamond so that each half is a different color. One of the methods requires working from both ends of the blank at the same time. Also covered will be a detailed study of various forms of base wraps.

OLD MARTIN

by Matt Ahern

Well—I've done it again. I've rung another ringer in on you. This story is a repeat of one I wrote three years ago, which was a repeat of one I originally wrote over seven years ago. While I admit copying from a previously written article saves much on the old brain power, I never do this unless reader requests demand that I do so. It is this story of old Martin and the story entitled "A Day of Tragedy" that are requested most. This latter one tells of my witnessing the sinking of Sheepshead Bay's MJR III on Sunday, May 3, 1936, while fishing in a fog south of the old Ambrose Lightship...and one of these days, I'm going to repeat it to satisfy all who demand that I do so.

Anyway—let's get with it.

It is a rare day when the postman fails to stop out front of our house. Letters, letters, and more letters; all from fishermen who enjoy "shooting the breeze" and sharing comments and tips. All well and good; and regardless of how many letters I receive on any given day, each gets its reply—no matter how long it takes me to do so.

As I said, many of these letters contain comments and many contain suggestions on how to catch more fish—which is all to the good, for certainly we can all learn from each other. But on occasion when a reader mentions the fishing I enjoyed in the long-ago, he will take me to task by stating that fishing could never have been as good as I claim in my old-timer stories. (Oh, ye of little faith!) To such a letter-writer there isn't much to say: if the fellow's a non-believer, he's a non-believer—and what are you going to do about it?

All of which brings me to this: Several days ago I received a letter from Sal Bianco of Amityville. Sal asked why I cast all those old-timers I write about in the mold of saints. Weren't there any devils about? Sal ended his letter by saying: "No one can make me believe there weren't any bad guys around those days."

Certainly there were bad guys around, Sal. We had our John Dillingers, our Bonnie and Clydes, our Machine Gun Kellys, plus other assorted desperadoes whose names the passage of years has mercifully erased. Real public enemies. And we kids of the day were extremely interested in the doings of those characters. None of us, though, considered them heroes. We knew them for the bums they were. When compared to kids of today, we might have been a little slow on the draw—but not that slow. But anyway, Sal, my apologies. I don't believe you meant your questions to be answered in this manner. And that is why I wrote you and said I hoped you would consider this story an answer.

And another reason for this story.

It won't hurt to remind ourselves of the way it was nearly 60 years ago, to relive a time when our now sad, old world was aglow with promise and hope for the future.

What made me write the original Old Martin story was a letter I received from Harold Mittendorf of Brooklyn. Mr. Mittendorf told me he recalled his grandfather telling stories of the many "rough and ready" fishermen who frequented party boats at the turn of the century, particularly those from Sheepshead Bay. Real tough cases, Mr. Mittendorf's grandfather called them. Contingents of police (and ambulances) were on hand to greet the party boats as they returned from their daily offshore trips. They were needed, the grandfather said, to control the unruly fishermen and cart off the injured. Mr. Mittendorf ended his letter by asking if I had ever witnessed similar events in my youth.

Well, the turn of the century was a little before my time; therefore, I can't comment on Mr. Mittendorf's letter from firsthand experience. If my memory is hitting on all eight, I recall hearing such stories, but how truthful they were, I don't know.

However, I can say this. When I was growing up on party boats (in the late 20s), such events were never witnessed by me. During the hundreds upon hundreds of party boat trips I've made over the long haul, I can recall but six instances of out-and-out drunkenness, and absolutely no knock-'em-down-and-drag-'em-out fights. Actually, and with few exceptions, every fisherman I knew seemed always well behaved. (At one time during those late 20s I codfished with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, and certainly Lou was a real gentleman, and as for Babe, well, he wasn't far behind Lou.) In fact, the only thing of importance to all the old-timers of my day was the catching of as many fish as possible.

So, with the docks cleared, and all that, let's get to the story of Old Martin.

Fortunately, I am blessed with a retentive memory. It fails only when I force it to concentrate on something difficult—like grocery shopping without a list. And because of this blessing, it isn't difficult for me to recall those many old-time fishermen of my boyhood days, their appearances, their voices, etc.

For instance, there was Matt Smith, whom I regarded as a second father rather than a brother fisherman; there was Big Red, who showed me how to catch my first cod; and there was Big Olaf, master fisherman of all master fishermen, who unselfishly taught me pool winning secrets that might have taken half a lifetime to discover on my own; plus many, many more who were so willing to take a youngster in hand and instill in him their hard-gained knowledge.

But there was this one outstanding old-timer whom I idolized and who was affectionately known to one and all as Old Martin—or just plain Martin.

When gauged upon the yardstick of full buckets, Martin was not as great a fisherman as were so many of the day—but this didn't lessen my love for him. In my young and impressionable eyes, Martin could do no wrong. What his last name was, I never knew. But it matters now. What does matter is that because of my high regard, I vividly remember him to this day, though he left this mortal coil nearly 60 years ago.

To describe Martin's external appearance and his gentleness is not difficult, but I would be sore put to describe the goodness that lay in his heart. He had never a harsh word for anyone, nor can I recall a foul epithet leaving his lips. I am sure evil thoughts were as foreign to Martin as to the most revered saint. Old Martin was quite a man.

That old political cartoonist Thomas Nast in his searching for a St. Nick model could have used Old Martin with but little change in his overall appearance.

Perhaps Martin had a little less in the belly and a little more in height but he was nevertheless as quick and agile as his counterpart. He sported an almost identical rounded beard and full mustaches, though both these were not nearly so white as as St. Nick's. Martin's exposed face radiated a ruddy complexion and humorous, twinkling blue eyes.

A true man of the sea, Martin was a rugged Norwegian, born aboard his father's trawler while on the North Sea's Dogger Bank one roaring winter day. This was in 1844. Oh, yes Martin was already an old man when I knew him—86, in fact. But he was ever youthful, giving the lie to his age as none other I have known. And always cheerful—no end cheerful.

Martin's one great passion was the sea.

"Isn't it grand, Marty boy?" he would often ask as we sat together on th bow of the old Rose R II while making our way to the Cholera Bank or perhaps to the deeps of 17 Fathom Bank. "It's alive, Marty. It speaks to me all the time. Can't you hear it?"

Of course in those young and tender years, I heard nothing from the sea but its roar on what Martin liked to call "a wild winter day," and absolutely nothing on a windless June morning. But I would nod and agree that the sea was indeed beautiful.

Martin must have had a hard life in his young days. I recall his telling me that his father was lost at sea with all hands in 1859, when he (Martin) was 15 years old. The trawler on which Martin was born never survived a raging snowstorm—that was all he knew about it. Martin said that within six months his mother died of a broken heart. He went to live with an uncle. Two years later, Martin and his uncle "could stand it no longer," and they emigrated to America.

This was in 1861. Martin remembered the Civil War well, for when he was 19, he joined the Navy. Here he found a home for 30 years, travelling to the remotest corners of the earth.

And it was with these adventures that Martin held me spellbound. I knew more about Hawaii (which he insisted upon calling the Sandwich Islands), Japan, China, Australia, French Indo China, India, Africa and such far off exotic lands than any school geography ever taught me. And I got it straight from one who had been there, instead of from some dry tome put together by an author who had probably never been out of the states.

For a young fellow such as I, Martin was a great companion. He taught me much; perhaps not so much on fishing as compared to those fishermen who were to come later, but much on how one should conduct one's self during life. "Try always to be kind, Marty boy," was his stock reply whenever I questioned him on why he so often went out of his way to help others. "Be kind. For if you do this now as a boy, you are bound to grow into a good man—besides," he would often add, "the world has need for good men. It has more than its share of no-goods."

This, of course, was the by-word of the times, a philosophy shared by most old-timers of my generation. No doubt, you can recall much of the same being the attitude of your parents and grandparents.

Martin, as was his nature, was quite talkative. But there were times when, as we fished side-by-side, he would become overly-quiet and gaze intently at the distant horizon. He never said what caused this turnabout; but unknown to him, I knew. And it was easy enough to understand.

Because Martin had been on the sea all his life, it was not surprising that he would wish to die at sea, as did his father. This was his hope, though he never voiced it in my presence, thinking, I suppose, that it was too morbid a subject for a boy of tender years. But this was the rumor I'd heard from those who knew Martin longer than I. Yes, my old friend was a strange man in many respects, and I would be the first to admit it.

The only time I didn't see Martin aboard the Rose R II was during winter lay-up periods, He would then re-enter the Old Sailor's Home, which I believe was in Staten Island and overlooked the bay. Here, Martin hibernated until April, when once again he would reappear on the scene, fit as a fiddle.

I don't believe Martin had much of a domestic life. I knew he had been a widower for a good many years, and I recall a married daughter, Innes, who I'd heard had desperately tried to have her father spend his winters with her—all to no avail. He much preferred, he said (not unkindly, I'm sure) the companionship of his old sea-faring cronies.

It was Martin who taught me how to fillet such fish as bergalls, sea bass, porgies, etc., and how to skin blackfish. And after he taught me that, it became my job in winter—when the below-deck pot belly stove was sending out its most welcome warmth—to fillet four or five of the largest bergalls and bring them below. Martin would then pan fry them in dollops of butter and sandwich several of the golden brown, steaming hot fillets between thick slices of tar-black pumpernickel bread. Um-m-—I can taste them still! And to anchor them securely, Martin made scalding cups of coffee. It was pure ambrosia—there's no other word for it.

"Good, eh, Marty boy?" he would ask, knowing full well that my reply would be: "Fit for a king, Martin; fit for a king." To which he was certain to reply. "Huh. Too good for most kings I ever heard of."

As mentioned before, Martin was not an outstanding fisherman. Never truly interested in fishing's finer points, he became a good fisherman solely through years of association with the game. Handline fishing was good enough for him. None of those high-falutin' rods and reels for him, he said. To Martin, fishing was just something to help spend time on his beloved sea.

To demonstrate this, I recall one time when we were drifting around the old Ambrose Lightship, doing some ling fishing on a fine spring day. Both of us were using handlines (that's all I could afford), both fishing beside each other, as we often did.

A split second after Martin had gotten a bite and began to haul in his fish, I also got a hit, struck back, and began to bring in my line, hand over hand. I knew the fish I'd hooked was a good one. Certainly it was no ling. I hoped it was a tardy cod, for if I could land it, I knew that fish would win the pool for me.

But it wasn't a cod. It was a purple hake of about 12 lbs. In its efforts to escape, it had entangled itself about Martin's line—or so I thought—and we hauled it in together.

Now comes the part that truly reveals Martin's character.

I discovered that fish wasn't mine, although martin insisted that it was. I watched him untangle the snarled mess after he first removed the hake and tied a knot in the tarred snell of the fish-catching hook—the method we used at the time for later identification.

I knew, however, that that knotted hook hadn't caught the fish. I knew it because I was using smaller hooks than Old Martin. I wasn't that much of a novce that I couldn't recognize my own terminal gear. Martin had let loose of his own hook, the one that caught the fish, and at the precise instant he thought I wouldn't notice, had quickly grabbed one of mine and tied a knot in its snell.

He wanted me to win that pool. Which I did.

I later insisted he take the money, or at least share the winnings with me. But he would have none of it. "You caught it fair and square, Marty boy. Lucky for you I didn't knock it off the hook, eh?"

Martin...Martin. You were quite a man.

Well, Old Martin and I fished together for several years and they were joyous tmes for me. But like all good things, they eventually come to an end.

One winter morning I showed up for some codfishing. But there was no Martin to greet me. I inquired of one of the regulars if he'd seen Martin.

"Didn't you hear, lad? Martin's gone. 'Most a week now."

I could feel the tears well and begin to overflow.

"Easy now, lad. Easy. Go ahead: cry if you want. Martin was worth the tears. So you cry. You won't be less the man for it."

When I had got control of myself, I was told Martin had gone below to make that coffee without which he couldn't exist. When he was missed on deck, someone had gone below to check and had found my old friend lying on the life preserver locker, past all mortal help.

The first question I asked was: "Where did it happen?"—hoping against hope that it wasn't in the bay. The answer—are you ready for this?—out on the Cholera Bank.

I felt the loss of Old Martin for a long, long time. But in a way I was glad his death had occurred the way it did, for I'm sure Martin's prayers were answered.

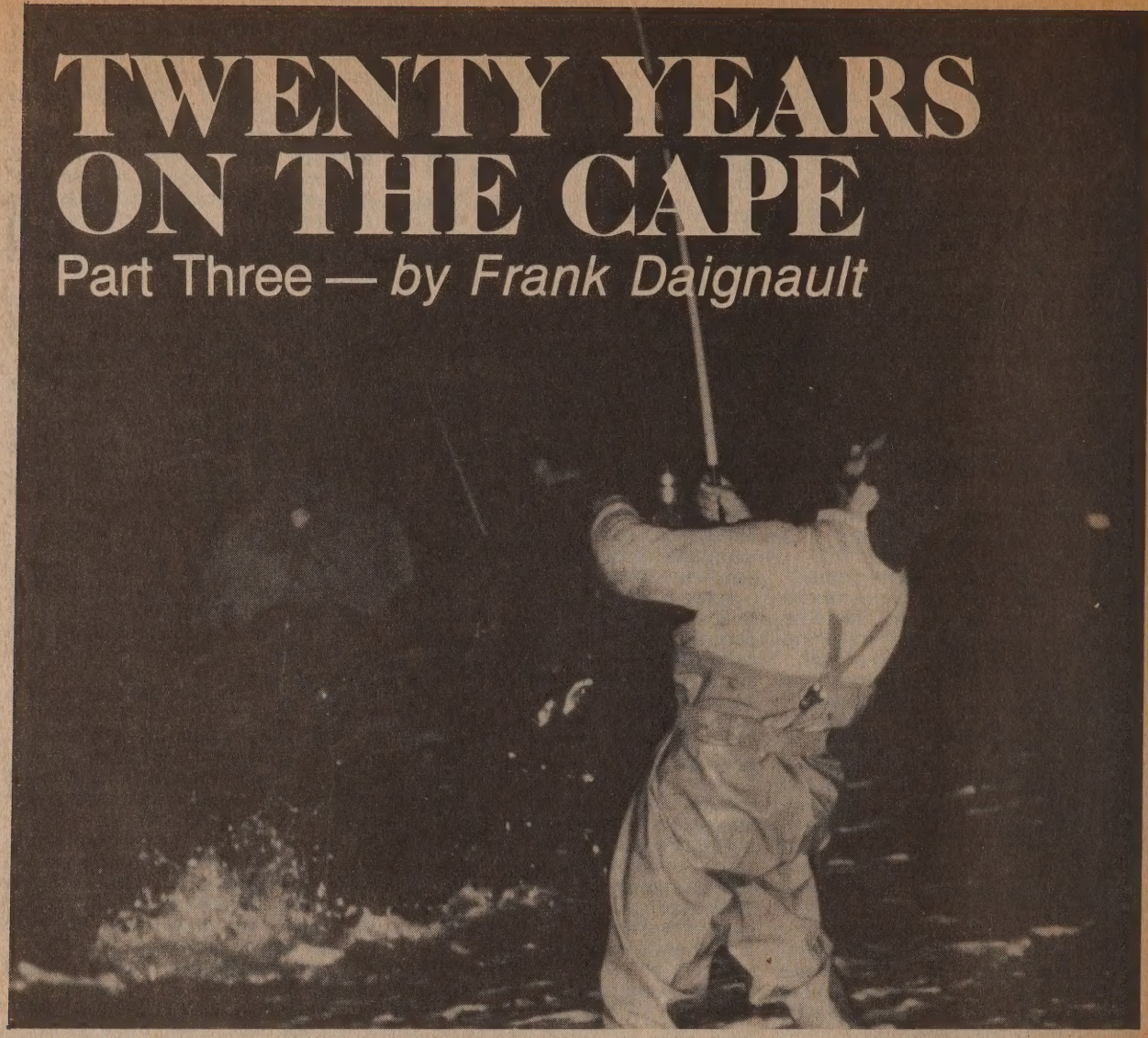
Surely, you must admit Martin had gotten his wish.

So ends the story of Old Martin. I wanted to tell it because the tale personifies those many old-timers who fished aboard party boats during those days of my youth.

And for Sal. Do you still wonder why I cast many of those old-timers as saints. I hope not.

TWENTY YEARS ON THE CAPE

Part Three — *by Frank Daignault*



There is clear definition among normal people about what a nice day is: sunny, windless, blue sky, temperature around 75. I guess I'm not normal because that is the kind of weather that I call b-o-r-i-n-g. Give me clouds lined up and scudding across the horizon pushed by a gale that turns the water white; wind that takes your breath away and puts the stripers and blues in a frenzy at your feet—so much of a frenzy that they lunge at your plug like it is going to be their last chance to eat for awhile. But then I couldn't be normal because I'm a surfcaster.

Now that the word was out that my family was doing stripers at the Race my problem was to try to regain the low profile that had kept us and our fishing safe for so long. Don't get me wrong; I'll help a guy. But how many friends does he have? Who does he owe? And how many friends do the people he owes have? Where does it end? If it has no end, then it should have no beginning. Nobody. Company policy. I learned painfully, sadly, one morning while talking to some bluefishermen that my dearest friend had leaked a kill of ours. It went like this:

"Hey, you did all right." I said, "Them suckers pull, don't they?"

"Ya, but they got stripers under the light last night," he said.

"That's bull," I said. "I was under the light. There were none."

There was only one person under the light last night with us: a trusted friend. Next in cleaning up the operation were the slips at the dock.

When you drop your fish you weighed them, wrote up the poundage and put the slip on the desk. Keep the pink. Saturday morning you went in the envelope in the drawer and got your check that had all six or seven drop slips for the previous week clipped to it. A sharpy coming in for the weekend or vacationing from, say New York, would pick up his check, or pretend to, then fish through the pile stopping on the biggest money. Under the check he had a weekly report on what you caught. On top of the desk he had last night's take for everybody including your last chapter. All he had to do was go looking for the top rod—up the beach or down. How the hell do you get lost on the beach, especially when everybody knows you and where you were last night? What was needed was a little more privacy, an item that I took up with the accountant, who was most sympathetic, running the numbers for the dock. At first, all the slips, all the checks were dropped or picked up in the upstairs, inner office. But there were two things wrong with that: first, I was doing too badly; and I lost my excuse to look at what the others were dropping. Hey, if a system is choking you, you may as well grab it by the throat. So, for the next eight years "Daignault was dying" and I would pick up my little $75 bluefish checks, crying about the 'good old days' to the guys with, of all things, striped bass. I didn't fool everybody all of the time, but it took a lot of the heat off.

Back our first year in P-Town, I had started fly fishing for stripers. The experience made me realize what a magical, killer lure the eel fly was. As a consequence we started using the flies as droppers finding out that most of the time we caught the bass on the teaser instead of the plug—so much

so that we stopped maintaining the plug hooks and began choosing our plugs for their castability into the wind; they were, after all, merely a vehicle for delivery of the fly. Of course, none of this stuff worked any miracles on a flat night, the nights the interlopers came up to fish in my yard at the Race. (You know I kid about the yard. Want to bet that somebody walks up to me on the beach and asks how dare I claim Race Point as my yard.) Back to the past.

The situation was paradoxically on my side for probably too long. A lot of them knew that we were doing a job on the Race. But everytime the wind blew they just couldn't bear it because to them you proved your manhood by casting a squidder and casting it far. And you can't do that with an Atom 40, gale up your nose. The wind, the distances, the stuff they used was a bummer for them there. I know that this sounds crazy, but they actually started to leave the Race alone. Meanwhile, our Race methods were refining with a kind of wind-scale system for coping with the sou'west: 0 = sleep; 10-25 = Rebel and fly; 25-40 = bottle plug (Gibbs Swimmer) and fly; 40 up = 4 oz. bank sinker and fly.

Dickie would check me three hours down. "Looks like a sinker night, Dad." "No," in my most authoritative voice, "rig bottles."

It wasn't until 1976 that we changed from the fly to the Red Gill for a teaser. The first Red Gills to fish stripers on this continent were hand carried by Dave Dowcra, United Kingdom distance casting champion, when we took him out surf fishing on assignment for Salt Water Sportsman magazine. The Red Gill was better, kept a secret until we lost some. I had 100 shipped to me from England by Alex Ingram who held the license then. I could have purchased import rights then, but I had more important things to do. Fish.

There had to be something brewing because the trawler crews were all holed up at the "Focsle," a waterfront bar where the real commercials hung out. Another weather flag was hoisted at the Coast Guard Station and the beach folks were divided about where to spend the night, what with the hurricane coming. I knew old Ranger Rick would pack us in the parking lot, off the beach—a safe idea. Hurricanes are terrible, often deadly things but when you are a weather sickie, you get off on hurricanes. My storm preparation was to immediately poll all the old-time fishermen to ascertain whether the best fishing would be before the storm or after. Lordy, I must have drawn on 500 years experience to find that half the old guard said before; the other half after. Yanking the choke on the Scout, I tried the "before!"

The Second Rip was pulling like the Boston girls had the tow rope; moreover, Conrad, DeRosa and what New Yorkers that were left were all on to bluefish when we got there. It was a weird Second Rip without the campers and kids all over the place. There was a thing about the sky and a stench in the air that made me wonder if things were really changing or if knowing that the storm was coming was working too hard on my head. I was into the fish right away, but I kind of had an afraid thing in the back of my mind that we would have the hurricane come over the top of the dunes in seconds. While there was no real weather upon us yet, the sea was heaving differently and the fish seemed to know. Spooky.

"My storm preparation was to immediately poll all the old-time fishermen to ascertain whether the best fishing would be before the storm or after."

By dark, all of us had topped off our boxes with bluefish, figuring that our fish would be the only ones on the floor at Fulton St. when all this was finished with the Eastern Seaboard. We were glad to be off and back on the hard top. Radio advisories had the storm coming right down New England's throat. I was unable to find my journal for the '76 season, but I do recall that it was August and that the eye followed the Connecticut River minimizing damage to the Cape. All we got was heavy wind and rain. Naturally, the passage of all this low pressure caused a surge of wind out of the sou'west that quickly went from "bottle" to "sinker" in spite of serene, blue sky. We didn't wait for clearance from Ranger Rick to put the camper and chase back on the beach.

We cut a new track with the chase, the old one blown flat, low gearing the pick-up through the clean, moon surface of the self-contained area, donned waders, and hustled to the Race. Here the sea heaved heavy from the storm and the wind pushed the tops off the foamers down the front side so that everything was white. Thousands of the big clumsy gulls hovered, dove, then hurried only to change direction from Hatches to the Traps. It was the most delicious mess you ever saw! We were on right away, Joyce straining to get a fish up, then a wave broke and her ankle-deep water went waist deep and her 12 lb. schoolie was behind her. We probably kept this up for an hour, the fish roughly half bluefish, when Paulie Hoercher pulled up beside us on low beach. "Hello, Nutbag," he said, "I knew it had to be you that cut the track." "Find your own blitz," I told him, and with that he kissed Joyce, as he always does, and went to work with us. Paulie, beautiful Paulie, our omen of blitz, his small 5' 4" frame disappearing in the foam then popping into view, went into his usual talk-to-yourself trance while we drove plugs low scant inches above the first wave. After three hours of this the wind dropped off enough for us to remove the sinkers, putting poppers in their place, so that we could double up at least half the time. We even shortened casts so that we wouldn't have to fight the pair as far. The thing got so crazy and we got so haggard that Paulie and I heckled Joyce while she struggled with a pair of bass in the low 30s that seemed to be fighting each other from the plug and the teaser. With the tide turning around hour five, mid-afternoon, I started tidying up the yard because I didn't want to load fish while moving the buggy up away from the water. That's a thing about a coming tide, you have to keep the vehicle close for gear and loading fish, but if you keep it too close, you move more often and lose production. Hey, enough is enough, we hadn't eaten for seven hours, my waders were full of saltwater and my hands were getting like hamburger and burning from all the little cuts aggravated by the salt. Joyce drove the Scout back to the buggy and got us some Twinkies and cold beer while the girls unloaded the boxes. Coming back she parked too close and a wave washed the passenger door and she scooted a U-turn with the muffler hissing. I think I ate the cellophane on the first goodie while offering Paulie a free Twinkie if he would move a thousand feet. And he, putting his arm around my Joyce warmly, offered her a better life with a "real fisherman." The wind was pansying out by now and the Race had a good 50 casters spread, tonging. And we, fearing that some of our catch could spoil, took everything in to the dock for weighing and icing down. I don't have exact figures but there were two boxes from the night before, maybe five of blues more and three of bass—roughly 1,000 lbs., say $450. Not a record, either for us or others I've known. But things were just getting going and that was 10 years ago.

By supper time and for us there was no supper time, the tide was really humping around the Race and when we pulled up buggies were being moved up, with some casters tight and water sliding under their rigs. The fishing hadn't eased even a bit. Paulie was panting on the hood of his Jeep and a few of the boys were complaining about the low percentage of

(Continued on next page.)

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bass. Joyce was back at the big truck readying a spaghetti sauce and I half-heartedly stuck one teen fish and a half box of blues, then rinsed wind sand off of unused rods and tied back the afternoon gear. Plugs were a mess and there were toothmarks in all the mono dropper rigs that were left. I siddled over to Paulie, patted him and asked if he ever wondered what the poor people were doing today.

At dark I pulled up to the self-contained area and every kid in Race City was pulling on the bluefish, including our three daughters. (Dickie was in the Coast Guard by then.) Joyce was calling them for dinner, but they didn't care as they had filled up on chips and Doritos during the day. Meanwhile Paulie had joined the kids, I think hoping to horn in on the spaghetti. Just as I sat down to eat, the hamburg patties sizzling, scads of sauce, a Portuguese roll, one of the girls came running:

"Mr. Hoercher got a big bass!"

I can eat while they blitz the bluefish, sleep when the wind is wrong, but I'll do neither when the cows are outside the window. By then, there were no kids and a sprinkling of men spread along the Second Rip. Carol had disappeared downtide 10 minutes before, there was a bull, billy club thud among the campers, and Paulie was throwing stuff all around his buggy to get to his eel cooler. Maybe I should have been surprised but there was no time to ponder such things. I threw a jointed eel, felt the line tighten in the current, a few drums of swimming action and I was on. Not that it was a heavy, every cast blitz, but we had fish in the 30s for about two hours. Toward the tail end of the drop, the bass moved off, we reheated dinner, left the dishes in the sink, pulled sleeping bags over the girls who had all fallen unconscious and drove to the Race with the chase.

Talk about a dead Race. Not a single vehicle was there. Apparently, all the action of the previous afternoon and evening had burned the entire beach population. Killing the lights, I dropped below the crest and slid softly the 400 feet to the water. When the Race Light came around large blankets of sand eels sprinkled in the light surf and a thing moved among them—a good sign. We clipped on 7 inch floaters and flies catching each of our bass one at a time; Joyce had a 41 but the others were all in the mid-20s, about two dozen, taken before the Cape Cod sun gave birth to the kind of ordinary day that bores me.

Keep in mind that this was 1976 and the really big bass were not around yet, not in numbers that were yet to come. These sizes were representative of the time, a picture as I saw it, remember it. Hurricane fishing, before or after? Both, but the after can last a little longer.

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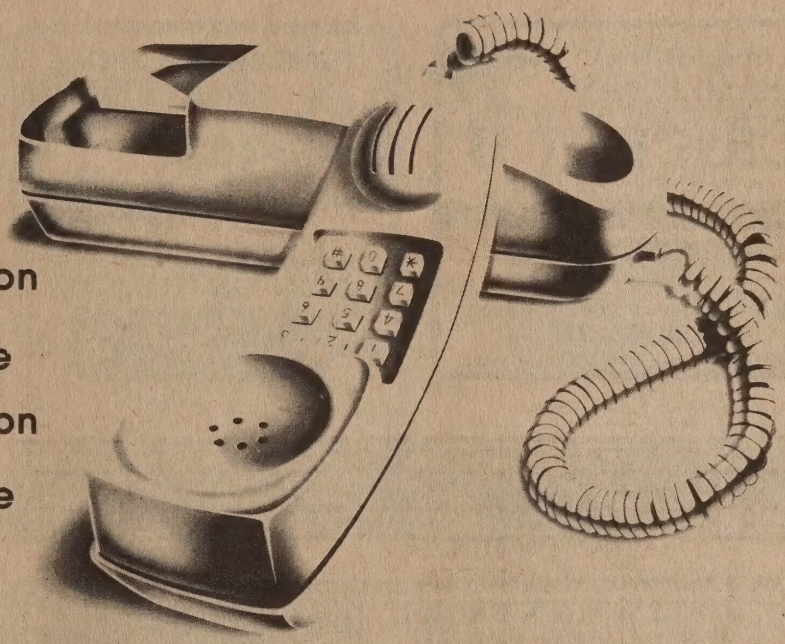

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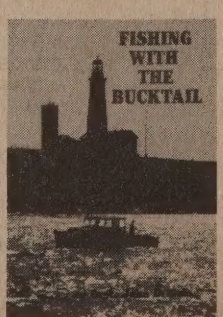

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East End REPORT
with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

More than one person we spoke to concerning the east end waterfront described the scene, particularly at Montauk, as a ghost town. Carl Darenberg Jr. at Montauk Marine Basin, reported nothing but seagulls out here with the exception of five or six boats working setlines for cod. They have been taking a few fish south of the Point. Carl announced the dates of the Marine Basin's Shark Tag Tournament. It is slated for the weekend of June 27-28. You can call 516-668-5900 for more info.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Real quiet along most of this shore with plenty of wind wreaking havoc with the codfishing. No word at all on flounder this week and the best bets for action continue to be the tidal rivers and streams for white perch and trout.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Not a soul has been out according to Larry Daillaire at **L & M Marineland** in **East Moriches**. He will continue to keep a couple of boats available for Quogue flounder despite the current lack of interest. Ice has not been a problem up to this point.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Al Flexor of Al Feather's jig fame continues to rack up some impressive white perch. His latest triumph should put him in the IGFA record book again. On Wednesday, he used one of his own jigs to take a 2 pound 6½ ounce white perch out of Brown's River in Sayville. The fish was taken on 4 pound test, measured 14" in length and had a girth of 13¼ inches.

Al Colban at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** reported some decent perch

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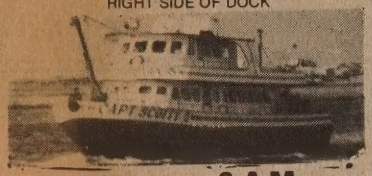
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FISHING

action with fish up to about a pound being taken on nightcrawler and spinner combos in the tidal reaches of the Connetquot. Some tommy cod also being taken in this area. They range from 1/2 to 1 pound. Lots of trout in Bubbles and Rattles. The majority of the fish are small but some nice fish in the 2-4 pound class being taken each week. Worms, doughballs and salmon eggs have all been effective.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Captree** open boat **Speedy VIII** reported the weekend was a bust for the Captree fleet. The Speedy VIII drew a blank on Sunday and managed just a few fish on Saturday's trip. The Speedy VII experienced similar results. Both days saw terrible fishing conditions with heavy winds on both days. Friday, the Speedy VIII with 8 fares and the VII with a dozen fares, managed 35 to 40 fish each under more fishable conditions. The fish ranged from 7 to 15 pounds and from 20 to 35 pounds.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty 3** reported a couple of 40 to 50 fish days over the past week when the weather has been cooperative.

At **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Tom Healy said that a couple of guys have been out perching with some fish being taken at Bergen Point and up north at Sunken Meadow. Bob Harvey had 5 at the latter location one day early last week. He used green Mr. Twister tails on small leadheads. Last Monday, Bill Miller Jr. used small white bucktails to take 3 stripers to 5 pounds at the Lilco outflow. Tom knew that a few cod continue to be picked from wrecks in the vicinity of the NA Buoy when the weather permits it.

We did hear from Lorry Mangan that Carl Whidden managed one flounder from the banks of the Shinnecock Canal on Tuesday. The next day, he worked the Quogue Canal and managed to squeeze a pair of flatties out of the mud.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Codfishing was decent this week on the days that boats could sail with a

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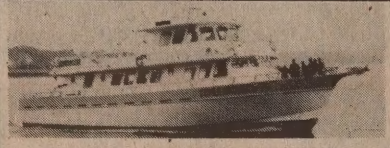

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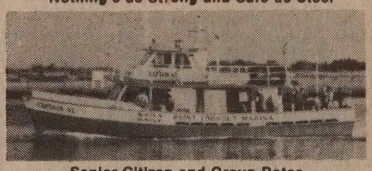

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potentially strong Sunday turning out to be a nightmare of strong frigid winds and a sloppy sea. Various days of the week saw decent to excellent catches of ling, whiting and mackerel for the Sheepshead fleet.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

Mike at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in Wantagh noted that private boats codfishing about two miles south of the NA buoy did a fair to good job on local cod drifting over open bottom when the weather conditions permitted, dragging clam bait. Catches ran from 8 to 30 fish per private boat. Mike had heard that the party boats had been doing an okay to fair job also. Although most fish were in the 10 to 13 lb. range, there were also a lot of 20 to 25 pounders.

Out of Freeport, the **Super Spray II** found codding generally okay to good this past week with catches of a half dozen fish a man not all that unusual. Pools ranged each day in the high 30s to 40s. On Friday, two buddies had 15 cod between them. Saturday was another good day. Sunday was rough and tough fishing. Two cod that were caught had a total combined weight of 77 pounds.

Aboard Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** the boat got out four days during this past week and had a fair to good catch each day with fish up to 35 pounds. Friday and Saturday were the two biggest catching days of the week. Best catches were made on clam on various wrecks.

In nearby Point Lookout we hear from Captain Al Lindroth of the **Captain Al** that Sunday was very lumpy and bumpy with a howling wind, with fares insisting on going out. The boat fished, bagged the pool fish and then had to call it a day due to severe conditions. However, up through Saturday, customers had some good catches of big cod. Monday saw Nick Vasquez of Hollis with four cod to 36 pounds on this rough day. Tuesday's fishing was excellent said the skipper with a total catch of about 60 cod. Jarde Binns of Lynbrook hoisted a 50 pounder while buddies Ken Curtis, Mike Carue, Pete Pitch, all of City Island gathered up 16 cod to 40 pounds. Massapequa angler Pete Camp was happy with a 34 and 37 pounder, while Pete Matus of Massapequa had to settle for 4 cod to 33 pounds. Poor guy. On Friday Jerry Delano of West Babylon bagged a 37 pounder while Roosevelt Rogers managed 7 cod to 35 pounds. On the same trip Matteo Scrivanich took six cod to 40 pounds. On Saturday 24 fares boated over 60 cod despite the rain. Karen Fischer of Huntington toook six cod to 35 pounds but was beat out by husband Mark who took the 44 pound pool winning cod. A few blackfish have been scattered into the catch.

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NEW YORK BIGHT

Aboard Capt. Al Coley's **Betty W. IV** Saturday saw customers with excellent mackerel catches ranging from 2 to 3 burlap sacks a man. All the macks you wanted said the skipper, working the Scotland area. There was also a good scattering of ling taken as well for those who probed the bottom. Sunday, of course, was a blowout.

Charlie at **Mike's Tackle** across from the fleet told of big blackfish caught Friday at 17 Fathoms in good numbers. He had several reports of great mackerel action Saturday south of the bay off the Jersey shore and also word of good ling and passable whiting action at Scotland.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Carrell

The only activity to come to our attention concerned some catch and release striper action at the Lilco power plant in Northport. Small bucktails and whiptails have been producing a few schoolies for dedicated striper fans.

Also, some decent white perch fishing being found within the confines of Sunken Meadow State Park.

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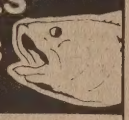

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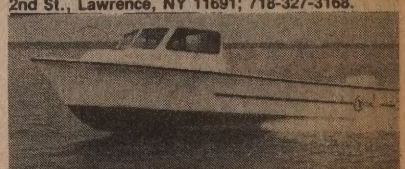

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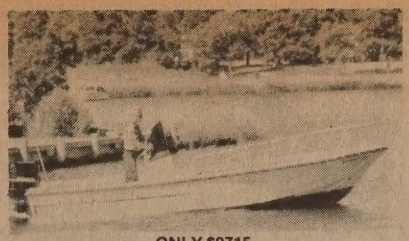

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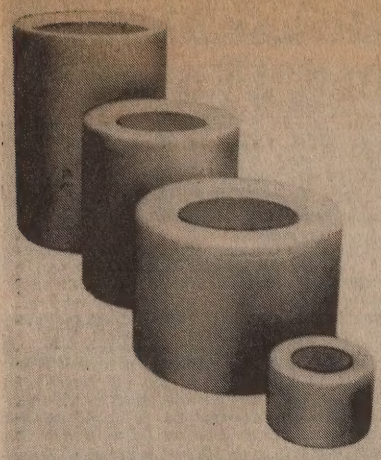

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FOR SALE: 1979 JEEP Cherokee blue & white. 4WD, locking hubs; 4 speed manual. Class 3 hitch. 47,000 miles; air cond. Good cond. $5300. Days: 516-334-6988. Eves: 516-333-0755.

REAL ESTATE

RENT Florida Keys Condo. Duck Key: 2BR, 2Bth. Fully equip. Week or month. Bus: 516-264-2202. Home: 516-422-3492.

JOIN WITH US AT THE Fisherman AND

SEND-A-KID FISHING

We, here at **The Fisherman,** feel that the need to introduce youngsters to this healthy and wholesome sport has never been greater. If you agree, and would like to join with us in making the **Send-A-Kid Fishing Program** a success, won't you please send a small donation to help us fund fishing trips for these boys and girls. A donation of $9.00 will cover the cost of a day's fishing for one youngster, but any contribution at all will be greatly appreciated. A listing of the names of all those who contribute to the program will appear in **The Fisherman** at the close of the season.

Yes, I would like to "Send-A-Kid Fishing" this summer.
Enclosed is a donation in the amount of $_____

Name _____
PLEASE PRINT

SEND-A-KID FISHING

Make checks payable to: "SEND-A-KID FISHING." All donations should be sent to: Post Office Box 1994, Bridge Street, Sag Harbor, New York 11963

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	7:45	8:15	8:40	8:55	8:25	9:00	9:15	9:50	11:25	11:45	11:10	11:40	7:45	8:05	1/15
FRI.	8:20	8:50	9:15	9:30	9:05	9:35	9:50	10:30	—	12:05	11:50	—	8:25	8:45	1/16
SAT.	8:55	9:30	9:50	10:10	9:40	10:10	10:30	11:05	12:15	12:15	12:15	12:25	9:05	9:25	1/17
SUN.	9:35	10:05	10:30	10:50	10:10	10:50	11:10	11:45	12:40	12:50	12:50	1:05	9:45	10:05	1/18
MON.	10:10	10:50	11:05	11:30	10:45	11:25	11:50	—	1:15	1:30	1:25	1:40	10:20	10:50	1/19
TUES.	10:50	11:30	11:45	—	11:25	—	12:25	12:30	1:55	2:15	2:05	2:20	11:05	11:30	1/20
WED.	11:35	—	12:15	12:30	12:05	12:10	1:10	1:25	2:40	3:05	2:50	3:10	11:55	—	1/21
THURS.	12:20	12:30	1:05	1:20	12:50	12:55	2:00	2:20	3:30	3:55	3:35	4:05	12:25	12:45	1/22

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	1/15	7:25	4:54
FRI.	1/16	7:25	4:55
SAT.	1/17	7:24	4:56
SUN.	1/18	7:24	4:58
MON.	1/19	7:23	4:59
TUE.	1/20	7:23	5:00
WED.	1/21	7:22	5:01

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	1/15	5:20PM	8:00AM
FRI.	1/16	6:20PM	8:35AM
SAT.	1/17	7:25PM	9:00AM
SUN.	1/18	8:30PM	9:25AM
MON.	1/19	9:35PM	9:45AM
TUE.	1/20	10:40PM	10:05AM
WED.	1/21	11:45PM	10:25AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
1/29	2/5	1/15	1/22

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	4:55	11:05	5:15	11:25
Fri.	5:40	11:55	6:05	—
Sat.	6:25	12:15	7:00	12:45
Sun.	7:20	1:10	7:45	1:30
Mon.	8:05	1:55	8:35	2:20
Tues.	8:55	2:45	9:20	3:05
Wed.	9:40	3:30	10:05	3:50
Thurs.	10:30	4:20	10:55	4:40

CAYMAN ISLANDS

WAHOO!

Photo by Forest Johnson

"Those who know us, love us."

Those who know us, love the endless activities in our crystal clear Caribbean waters. Like chasing a huge, bounding blue marlin, tuna, or wahoo. Casting into a hidden lake, awaiting the crash of a high-jumping tarpon. Stalking the flats for the speedy bonefish. Or bottom-fishing our colorful reefs. The whole world doesn't know our three magical islands. But those who do, love our home for fabulous fishing that's never out of season.

They also love our people, whose warmth and courtesy make a vacation here unforgettable. After you've tried lying on our sparkling beaches, diving into our underwater wonderlands, exploring our fascinating sights, dining on Island and Continental delights, and shopping in our duty-free boutiques, set aside some time for Cayman Islands fishing! You might just get hooked on it!

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Department of Tourism Sales Offices: Miami/Houston/Los Angeles/New York/Chicago/Dallas/Atlanta/Toronto/London